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KENT ON SUNDAY

Published by KOS MEDIA LTD. Telephone: (01303) 817000

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No.366 September 27, 2009 On sale 90p

INSIDE



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BID-RIGGER KEEPS ITS TURNER PRIZE

EXCLUSIVE

By JENNA PUDELEK

Construction firm fined £711,000 for 'cover-pricing' is building art gallery



CENTREPIECE: An artist's impression of the Turner Centre

A HIGH-profile private school is "taking advice" after the Kent construction company it awarded a multi-million pound contract was found to have broken competition laws.

R Durtnell & Sons Ltd, which is based in Brasted near Sevenoaks, was fined £711,115 by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) and is among 103 firms found to have been involved in anti-competitive 'bid-rigging' activities.

The 400-year-old company, which was awarded the contract to build the £17.5 million Turner Contemporary gallery by Kent County Council while it was under investigation, was found to have supplied 'cover-prices' in relation to two projects at leading private schools in 2004 and 2005.

KCC said it would not be reviewing the contract for the art gallery in Margate, which has been plagued by problems since plans for a centre in the coastal town were first drawn up in 1994.

"We are confident in our procedures," said Cllr Mike Hill, County Hall's cabinet member for communities. "They are very rigorous and every tender is benchmarked against previous projects and looked at by an independent quantity surveyor so there is no possibility of collusion or cover pricing. I do not think it calls into question [Durtnell's suitability for the project]. This investigation has been going on for five years and the reason we set up these rigorous procurement procedures was to make sure we do not suffer from this."

Work started on the Turner Gallery in November last year and it is due to be completed by 2010.

Cover-pricing is where one or more construction companies bidding in a tender process offer an artificially high price for the job because they do not want the work.

However, they still want to give the impression of trying to win the contract because they want to stay on the approved list of contractors so they can bid for projects in the future.

The OFT investigated because the artificially high 'cover bids' mislead clients over the real extent of competition in the process to win the contract.

In one case involving Durtnell, the OFT said it gave a cover price figure to another firm, Morgan Ashurst, for a job both companies were bidding for. The £1,327,000 contract for a performing arts centre Sydenham High School in south east London in 2005, eventually went to another firm.

The other case involved Bedales School in Hampshire for a teaching and administration building in 2004. Durtnell was awarded the contract worth £4,595,000, and the work was completed in 2005.

The OFT found that Durtnell provided another of the tendering companies, Jackson, with a cover price to use in its bid.

Asked whether Bedales was concerned it had received an unfair price for the project, which won an architectural award, headmaster Keith Budge said: "The project returned good value for money… We will, however, be taking advice in response to the OFT findings."

A Bedales spokesman would not confirm if the "advice" was from legal counsel.

Mr Budge added: "We are absolutely delighted with the new building which enhanced the school and has provided Bedales students and staff with a teaching and learning space of the highest quality.

"Four companies submitted tenders and the appointment of building contractor R Durtnell & Sons Ltd was made after an extremely thorough and detailed process of tender submission and analysis.

"An independent quantity surveyor and project manager were employed by Bedales School who arrived at an indicative cost for the project which was in line with the selected bid."

Meanwhile, Durtnell is among several construction firms, including Apollo Property Services and Durkan, considering fighting against the fines imposed by the OFT, which total £129.5 million.

Durkan received one of the toughest penalties at £6.7m, but the highest went to Kier,

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



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Kent today



TODAY: It will be dry with long spells of bright sunshine and lots of blue sky. Warm for the time of year. Light northerly winds. Max temp 18-21C (64-70F).
TONIGHT: Dry with clear intervals allowing mist patches to form by morning. Light northerly winds. Min temp 9-12C (48-54F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	cloudy	20	68	London	sun	20	68
Belfast	cloudy	17	63	Liverpool	cloudy	17	63
Birmingham	cloudy	17	63	Manchester	cloudy	17	63
B'mouth	fair	20	68	Newcastle	fair	18	64
Bristol	sun	17	63	Norwich	fair	19	66
Cardiff	fair	17	63	Oxford	fair	18	64
Cork	cloudy	17	63	Southsea	sun	20	68
Edinburgh	drizzle	17	63	S'hampton	sun	20	68
Glasgow	drizzle	16	61	Southport	cloudy	17	63
Isle of Man	cloudy	16	61	Swansea	cloudy	18	64
Leeds	cloudy	16	61	Torquay	sun	18	64

Sun & moon

Sunrise 6.50am Sunset 8.42pm Lighting up times 8.42pm to 6.51am
Moonrise 4.00pm Moonset –

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	m/ft	m/ft	m/ft	m/ft	m/ft	m/ft	m/ft	m/ft
Dover	05.38	5.2	18.32	5.0	07.10	5.0	20.09	5.0
Margate	06.17	3.9	19.04	3.7	07.32	3.7	20.33	3.7
St Mary's	11.41	4.1	–	–	00.38	3.9	13.22	4.2

Week ahead

monday	Sunny spells	max 20C	min 11C
tuesday	Mainly cloudy	max 19C	min 9C
wednesday	Fairly cloudy	max 18C	min 9C
thursday	Cloudy. Dry	max 18C	min 9C
friday	Sunny spells	max 18C	min 9C
saturday	Sunny spells	max 17C	min 9C

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Printed by Archant Print. Early edition free, late edition 60p.

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Climate camp blamed over hike in police complaints

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

HEAVY-handed policing of the Kingsnorth climate camp contributed to a 24 per cent rise in complaints about the Kent force.

Last year, the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) received 862 complaints about Kent Police staff – an increase of 167 from 2007-08 and up a massive 194 per cent from five years ago.

Of last year's complaints, 23 per cent were down to "other neglect or failure of duty", while 20 per cent were because of "incivility, impoliteness and intolerance".

The force received widespread criticism over its handling of last year's climate camp, where for 10 days environmentalists demonstrated against plans for a new coal-fired power station on the Hoo Peninsula.

A report published two months ago concluded Kent Police's blanket use of stop-and-search powers at the protests were "disproportionate and counterproductive" and this week Assistant Chief Constable Allyn Thomas admitted it had resulted in a rise in complaints.

He said: "Kent Police have been encouraging people to come forward if they've been unhappy with the way we've dealt with an issue or incident, as this feedback can help improve the service we provide.

"In addition, during 2008 we were involved in policing the climate camp at Kingsnorth, which resulted in additional complaints submitted to the force.

"While these have been dealt with by our professional standards department, they have added to the figures over the last year.

"We welcome all feedback. If that results in a complaint, we will investigate and take action. We expect officers to maintain the highest level of professionalism and honesty at all times, both on and off duty."

As well as the stop-and-search grievances, protestors also accused officers policing the camp of aggression, intimidation and the use of sleep deprivation tactics such as playing loud music at night.

The latest figures will be a blow to the force as it seeks to improve one of its key targets – improving public confidence in its performance. Dover and Deal Labour MP Gwyn Prosser, a member of the Home Affairs Committee, told Kent on Sunday he felt the force needed a new approach towards demonstrations.

He said: "From evidence I've seen it looks as if some officers over-reacted and I hope Kent Police will learn lessons from it. In recent years we've had peaceful demonstrations at Dover against live animal exports and in some cases I think over-policing has taken place. In 2006 a coach full of protestors was detained outside the port and weren't allowed off. They were treated in an appalling way."

Resolution

Complaints made to the IPCC can consist of any number of allegations and last year a total of 1,543 (up 19 per cent) were made against Kent Police.

Of those, 799 were investigated, but only 130 were substantiated. Just over 500 were written off by way of a local resolution between the force and the complainant. The figures also show the average number of days to record a complaint case was 18 days – nine longer than the national average.

Kent Police Authority chief executive Mark Gilmartin said the force had been asked to reduce complaints by 10 per cent by March: "We have seen some impressive progress by Kent Police in the last few years. Crime and antisocial behaviour have fallen and we are catching more criminals and increasing public confidence.

"However, it's critical these achievements are not undermined. Policing in today's society is hard and demanding, but the public expect the very best from officers and staff. The authority intends to play a key part in achieving this."

News and sport updated daily online
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Bid-rig builder ponders appeal against penalty

FROM FRONT PAGE

which was fined a staggering £17.8m. Carillion, which built Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford under a private finance initiative, was fined £5.3m.

John Durtnell, the company's chairman, said: "R Durtnell & Sons is disappointed to have received a penalty notice from the OFT for participating in the practice of cover pricing between 2003 and 2005. It was not until 2007 that cover-pricing was determined as contrary to the Competition Act 1998.

"Durtnell ceased participating in this arcane practice in 2005, having never gained any financial advantage, nor indeed had any client suffered any disadvantage.

"The OFT's investigation established that cover pricing was endemic throughout the industry and decided to call a halt to their investigation having obtained extensive evidence against 1,000 companies, of which 112 were randomly selected for prosecution.

R DURTNELL & Sons Ltd was established in 1591 and is the oldest building company in the country. The firm's website boasts it has an "enviable reputation for quality work, fine craftsmanship and business integrity".

Durnell carries out work in the private and public sectors including schools and healthcare. It has just completed a £10.7m sports and media centre at Tonbridge School.

Other Kent projects include work at Grove Park Primary, Sittingbourne; a hospice's headquarters in Orpington; churches in Brasted and Meopham; and a health project in Edenbridge.

The company, which as been handed down from father to son for 12 generations, has a turnover of around £40m and employs around 170 full-time staff.

"Durtnell consider the penalty wholly disproportionate to their transgression and are considering appealing to the Competition Act tribunal."

Cllr Hill added: "Durtnell is doing a splendid job on the Turner Contemporary, which is a flagship project for us.

"The first floor level is up and we are really pleased with the work going on."

A Sydenham High School official said: "Neither of the builders named in the OFT investigation were awarded the contract for the work at the school.

"The Girls' Day School Trust received four bona fide competitive tenders, which were scrutinised by our quantity surveyors; we are satisfied that the contract was awarded fairly, that the contract price paid was fair and reasonable, and that the school was not adversely affected."

The OFT has said firms facing fines should not be excluded from future tenders because the practice of cover-pricing was widespread in the industry, and those companies that had been investigated were now "particularly aware of the competition rules".

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TV funnyman Justin will not do a Brucie

JUSTIN Lee Collins says he will retire from television within three years because he does not want to emulate his former hero Bruce Forsyth, ***writes Steve Knight***.

The TV comic – best-known for co-hosting The Sunday Night Project alongside Alan Carr – this week blasted Forsyth, 82, for being rude to him when the two worked on the first series of Strictly Come Dancing.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday to promote his new autobiography, Collins revealed he had no desire to have as long a career as the man he once idolised.

He said: "I'm giving myself another two or three years and then I'm gone. I've loved every minute of my career, but I've just done everything I want to do and now I want to go home and be with my wife and my little boys.

"I'm always thinking 'how much longer do I want to do this?'. Do I want to be like Brucie and Des O'Connor and work into my 70s and 80s? – and the answer is no, I really don't.

"I don't even want to work into my 40s. I've just had enough, although maybe I'll only end up taking an extended break."

Viewers of Collins' most recent television escapades saw the bushy-haired Bristolian try his hand at a variety of difficult-to-master activities, including ballroom dancing, 10-pin bowling and professional wrestling.

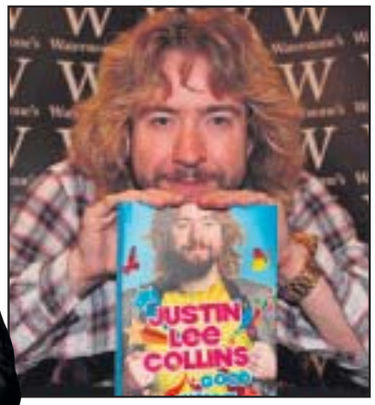
His warm and friendly presenting style has won him an army of adoring fans, and Collins said he felt it was important to always treat people with respect.

He said: "My mum always told me to be good and kind, and I always keep that in mind because it doesn't cost anything to be nice to people.

"That's why I was so disappointed the first time I met Brucie. I was a new presenter at the time on Strictly Come Dancing's sister show and it was the biggest thing I'd ever done in my life.

"I was terrified and didn't think I'd be able to do it, especially as I knew I would be interviewing someone my whole family adored.





OFF YOU GO: Collins was shocked by how rude Bruce Forsyth was when he met him

"But he was very difficult with me and didn't help me out at all and I just thought 'come on, give me something'. He should have known what it was like for me, as he was a new presenter once upon a time too.

Stand-up

"But my mum also says that when somebody is being unpleasant to you, you should kill them with kindness and that's what I did. At the interview I told him I had been looking forward to meeting him all day and he just turned around and replied 'well now you have'.

"Things did get slightly better as the weeks went by, but I doubt he'll think very highly of me if this gets back to him."

Collins – affectionately known as JLC – signed copies of his autobiography Good Times! at Bluewater shopping centre on Tuesday.

It was a long-awaited return to Kent for the 35-year-old, who visited numerous pubs and clubs around the county while attempting to make it big as a stand-up comedian early in his career.

He said: "I used to visit Kent back in the day, but I was generally appalling as a stand-up and would go around dying on my arse at different venues. It was usually a great relief to get out and drive home to Bristol. I do miss those drives home."

Dead body is found in suitcase at pond

A MURDER inquiry has been launched following the discovery of a body in a suitcase.

The body was found on farmland off Buckland Road, Cliffe, at 1.30pm on Thursday.

The suitcase was found in a dried up pond – known locally as the 'old pond'.

A police cordon was put in place in the area and Buckland Road closed.

Inquiries are ongoing to establish the identity of the body, which is believed to be an adult female. A cause of death is not yet known.

Afghan teen admits sex assault on girls

A TEENAGE boy has pleaded guilty to sexual assault after he admitted touching two girls in a swimming pool in Maidstone in May.

The 17-year-old, originally from Afghanistan, admitted two charges of sexual assault, after he touched two 12-year-old girls while they were swimming at Mote Park leisure centre.

He awaits sentence and the court could order his deportation.

To watch this clip search 'angel' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



See Erica Longdon, a therapy practitioner holding her angel card reading workshops

Hemingway is guest at third Construction Expo

DESIGN guru Wayne Hemingway will be among the guest speakers at next week's third annual Construction Expo.

The event – organised by KOS Media in conjunction with Business Link – brings together some of the country's best-known developers, planners, training providers and more for a day of information, idea-sharing and demonstrations.

Former fashion designer Mr Hemingway now owns the affordable-housing specialist Hemingway Design and will explain at the Expo why he believes the current downturn is presenting a once-in-a-generation opportunity for developers.

The 48-year-old will be joined by a number of other expert speakers at the event, which takes place at the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, on Wednesday.

These include David Liston-Jones – chief executive of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership – and the South East England Development Agency's director of the built environment, Chris Moore.

Opening the event will be Medway Council's portfolio holder for economic growth Cllr Jane Chitty, while Ashford's Future managing director Judith Armitt will also be on hand to give a talk about the group's activities.

A significant percentage of the Expo's floor space will be taken up by the EcoVillage – an area dedicated to the promotion of sustainable construction products and services that will host its own collection of demonstrations and seminars.

Entry and parking for the event, which runs between 8am-4pm, is free. Hot and cold food will also be available. Visit www.constructionexpo.co.uk for more information.

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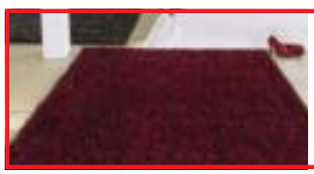
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After denouncing Kent schools, education minister is told...

Explain yourself

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
simon knight@kosmedia.co.uk

EDUCATION Secretary Ed Balls has been asked to meet Kent County Council leader Paul Carter "urgently" after saying the authority needs special help to improve underperforming schools.

And the minister blamed the problems on Kent's selective education system, saying "you have the greater issues around aspiration and belief" in children who have "been told they did not succeed" by not reaching a grammar school.

Last year, the Government placed 33 of the county's secondary schools on its National Challenge scheme, threatening them with closure if by 2011 they had not met the target of 30 per cent of students achieving A* to C (including English and maths) at GCSE.

Despite 11 having already beaten the benchmark with two years to spare, Mr Balls revealed this week that KCC will be one of just two local authorities made subject to progress reviews by expert advisors.

Cllr Carter sent an angry letter to Mr Balls on Thursday asking him to visit Kent and explain his decision in person.

It said: "I am most concerned by the announcement made by you indicating apparent slow progress within Kent on the National Challenge, and the impact this is having on schools and pupils in this county.





ISSUES: Ed Balls has angered KCC leader Paul Carter with his comments about the progress of the county's schools

"I suggest we meet urgently so we can discuss your concerns directly, look at the comparative data you have used as the basis for your announcement and why it is you believe Kent requires more help than others.

"I am concerned that the tone of your letter to us, with its wide circulation, does little to emphasise the good results achieved.

"It does not reflect the recorded feedback from the National Challenge programme to date, which has expressed confidence in our progress and has praised local authority leadership and support."

Of the 22 Kent schools that have not yet passed the 30 per cent benchmark, 11 are now within four per cent and a further six are on course to rise above it by 2011.

The only other authority where expert advisors have been sent in is Suffolk, while Leeds and Blackpool have also been made subject to separate reviews.

Mr Balls said he had decided to intervene because 20 per cent of Kent's secondary schools were below the target – the most in the country.

He added: "I've always said non-selective schools face extra challenges.

"It's harder, but not necessarily because there's more deprivation... There's no doubt in my mind that if young people arrive in secondary school having been told they did not succeed, then you have issues around aspiration and belief."

The Government announced on Wednesday that of the 638 schools placed on the National Challenge scheme nationally, fewer than 270 remained below the 30 per cent benchmark.

While Cllr Carter voiced his disappointment at Kent being singled out for criticism, his letter did say he welcomed the extra support the five schools he fears might not reach the target will receive.

In an article written for Kent on Sunday, cabinet member for education Cllr Sarah Hohler said Mr Balls was trying to be a "knight in shining armour" who would "correct all wrongs and save the world".

• *Turn to p30 to read her full article.*

Tributes to dad who died while playing football

A KEEN footballer has died after hitting his head against a wall during a five-a-side match.

David Winslow, 26, was fatally injured at the Black Lion Leisure Centre on Tuesday, September 22 – just two days before his birthday.

His girlfriend was watching the game from the Gillingham sport centre's viewing gallery and led the tributes to the father-of-one.

On Facebook, Kady Chaffe wrote: "I still can't believe you're gone, a part of me keeps thinking you'll walk through the door, but I know it won't ever happen."

A memorial evening will be held at Amadeus nightclub, Strood, on Tuesday.

To see this clip search 'dave lee' @ yourkenttv.co.uk



The Dave Lee charity golf day is at Chart Hills golf club next Sunday. Find out more about the big day

Race over to festival for tasty celebration

CELEBRITY chef John Burton-Race will share his wealth of cooking experience when he takes part in the inaugural Broadstairs Food Festival next week.

The Michelin-starred owner of the celebrated New Angel in Dartmouth, Devon, will be among 24 other restaurateurs at the event, which runs all this week.

KOS Media is an official partner of the festival, which will showcase the best of local and Kent produce with seven days of tastings and demonstrations.



HOT STUFF: John Burton-Race will be at the event

Bill Hackney, chairman of organiser Broadstairs Events Support Trust, said it had taken a lot of effort to put together. He added: "It is a very successful resort and town and we decided we wanted to promote local businesses and Kent produce, and to promote Kent tourism.

"It will be an annual event and in about three years' time it will be a very significant event in the Broadstairs and Thanet calendar.

"We have planned for 10,000 people to come so we are not unambitious, and the BBC will be broadcasting the event."

The festival has been organised as a joint venture between the Broadstairs Chamber of Commerce and the Broadstairs Tourism and Leisure Association.

Kentish wines, ciders and fruit juices will be celebrated throughout the course of the event, while locally-grown potatoes, vegetables and cheeses will also be displayed for visitors' enjoyment.

Meanwhile Faversham-based brewers Shepherd Neame will have a presence, with Broadstairs pub chain Thorley Taverns set to unveil an as yet unnamed beer which has been created specially for the festival.

Visit www.broadstairsfoodfestival.org.uk for more details, including event timings.

Literary headliners announced

TELEVISION chat show host Richard Madeley and comedienne Jo Brand are to top the literary line-up for this year's Folkestone Book Festival in November.

They will be joined by the likes of actor Joss Ackland, former politician Giles Brandreth and columnist Libby Purves, as well as Victoria Hislop, Rick Wakeman and Lady Antonia Fraser.

The annual event also features comedian Vic Reeves discussing his tome, The Vast Book of World Knowledge, together with the late Alan Clark's widow, Jane Clark, talking about the recent biography of her politician husband.

The festival takes place from November 6-14 at Quarterhouse and other venues. See www.folkestonebookfest.com for details.

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Leap in visitor numbers as summer train promotion highlights Kent attractions

Staycationers ride to rescue

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

TOURISM bosses have revealed a 14 per cent increase in the number of visitors to the Garden of England so far this year.

Visit Kent said thousands of families were flocking to county attractions such as Leeds Castle and Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks, prompted by a summer promotion in partnership with train company Southeastern.

New figures from the tourism partnership show 2,534,491 visitors came to Kent between January and July this year, compared with 2,227,083 in 2008.

The 2FOR1 promotion, which is continuing until March, 2010, is available at more than 70 attractions, hotels and restaurants across Kent.

Visitors have to present a valid rail ticket from anywhere in Southeastern's network, along with a voucher downloaded from the campaign's website, or cut from a promotional brochure picked up at railway stations.

Good deal

So far, more than 3,000 vouchers have been downloaded and it is hoped at least 5,000 will be redeemed before the end of the promotion.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent, said: "We certainly think it has helped boost visitor numbers. People are looking for value for money and getting a good deal and this offer really represents that.

"They are top attractions in Kent – restaurants, hotels and places to visit – so it's all a very compelling offer. We are convinced this campaign has made a contribution to the positive picture."

The top three downloads include Leeds Castle, Howletts and Port Lympne, and Dover Castle.

Hever Castle; Canterbury Cathedral; Canterbury Tales; St Augustine's Abbey and the Roman Museum, Canterbury; Rochester Castle; Kent and East Sussex Railway, Tenterden; Deal Castle; and Dickens World and the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, have also proved popular destinations this summer.

Visitor numbers peaked in July at 810,604 and Mrs Matthews-Marsh believes the positive trend is set to continue. Home attractions have been helped by increasing numbers of people choosing not to holiday abroad due to recession and the weak pound.

"Generally, the 'staycation' – which is very much the phrase of the moment – seems to be continuing into autumn," Mrs Matthews-Marsh said.

"Also the weather helps. Kent has enjoyed a pretty good summer despite the picture in other parts of the UK.

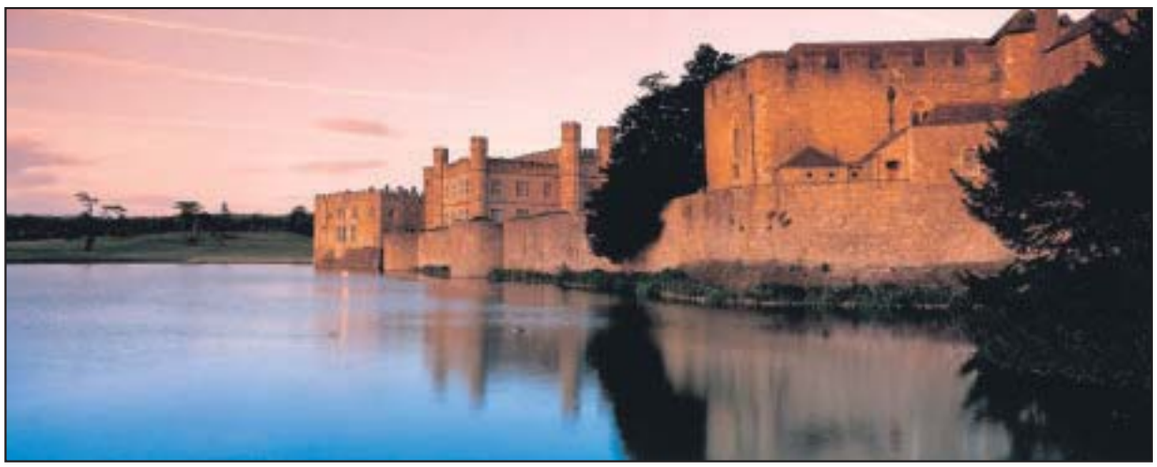
"We have had a reasonable August into September, so that has helped. Also our businesses have really put on a good show with lots of events, attractions and some really special local menus. Early indications are that this is holding up."

Mrs Matthews-Marsh said she wanted to remind Kent residents they can use the 2FOR1 promotion, too, as long as they take a train journey with Southeastern.

Cllr Kevin Lynes, the county council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "The campaign has helped support tourism in the county in a very difficult financial climate and has created awareness of the of activities and attractions Kent has to offer.

"Visitors are reminded just how close to London we are and how convenient it is to travel to the county, especially by train."

For more information and a full list of the attractions and destinations included in the offer, go to www.visitkentbytrain.co.uk.



MAJESTIC: Leeds Castle (above) joined Howletts and Port Lympne wild animal parks and Dover Castle as Kent's top three downloads



POPULAR: Modern-day pilgrims at Canterbury



PROUD: Tiger at Howletts



POWERFUL: Rochester Castle's Norman keep

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Colin Jackson

Hurdler Jackson hopes to inspire

FORMER Olympic hurdler Colin Jackson is promoting black history in sport at an event in Gravesend next month.

Jackson, who took silver at the 1988 Seoul Olympics in the 110 metres hurdles, said the youth of today needed reliable role models.

The 42-year-old, who took gold in the World Championships in Stuttgart in 1993 and again in Seville in 1999, wants to highlight the importance of black history, particularly in sport, to help inspire youngsters.

He will be a guest speaker at a 2012-inspired black history event at the Woodville Halls to promote diversity and encourage community.

It will also feature an exhibition of black, minority and ethnic sportspeople, plus African music and dance. The event on Tuesday, October 20, between 10am-2pm, is free.

Ball benefits Saggers

AN END of summer ball is being held at Canterbury Cathedral lodge on Friday in aid of Kent and England fast bowler Martin Saggers, who is in his benefit year.

The black-tie event will include a three-course meal, dancing and cabaret. Tickets are £50, or £45 for members of Kent Cricket Club. Call 01892 750131 or email laura@saggers-benefit2009.co.uk for more details.

Dealer joins Costa del Crime's 'most wanted'

AN ALLEGED drug dealer from Kent has been named on a 'most wanted' list by the authorites, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Crimestoppers says it hopes its latest appeal means the net will be closing in on Chislehurst-born Stephen Pitman, aged 53.

The crime-fighting charity has teamed up with the Serious Organised Crime Agency in an effort to track Pitman down in Spain.

It has issued a new appeal in Malaga, part of the so-called Costa del Crime.

The smart Spanish town is home to many British ex-pats, including known criminals.

Pitman was named as part of Operation Captura, which identifies serious criminals who are on the run from law enforcement agencies for crimes committed in the UK.

Captura was launched three years ago and has so far netted 23 out of 40 criminals it rates as most wanted.

Many are now serving long sentences for crimes ranging from murder, sexual offences and drugs.

Pitman faces seven charges of conspiracy to supply a class A drug, which carries a life sentence; plus seven more of conspiracy to supply a class B drug, which carries a maximum of 14 years in jail. He has a scar on his brow and another on a finger on his right hand.

Operation Captura officers work closely with Foreign and Commonwealth Office staff in Madrid and British and Spanish law enforcement agencies.


MOST WANTED: Stephen Henry Pitman

The founder and chairman of Crimestoppers is Lord Ashcroft. He said: "The public response to the campaign so far has gone way beyond our expectations in locating criminals and we hope this continues with the latest batch of appeals.

"It makes me immensely proud as the founder of Crimestoppers that we are now having such a significant impact on an international scale."

Pitman is one of 10 most wanted whose details have been published online in the hope ex-pats can help locate him.

Dave Cording, director of operations, said: "These appeals include some very nasty individuals and crimes, and we need you, the public, to help us put them behind bars, where they belong.

"Please don't approach these individuals as they are known to be dangerous, but if you recognise any of them or know where they may be, please contact Crimestoppers immediately. All information is taken in total anonymity."

The British Ambassador to Spain, Dame Denise Holt, said: "Ten new criminals who we think are hiding out on the Costas have been identified.

"The public and media response to the Captura campaign has been incredibly effective so far.

"We are looking for your continuing help in putting these individuals behind bars, where they belong."

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Police fear thousands of rapes are going unreported

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

RAPISTS could be going unpunished for thousands of attacks across Kent because their victims feel unable to report the crime.

Kent Police figures show that there were 411 rapes reported between April, 2008, and March, 2009, but because experts estimate that 90 per cent go unreported, the true figure could be more than 4,000.

Det Chief Insp Paul Fotheringham said: "I think about the numbers; there could be 4,000 women out there being raped if 90 per cent are not reporting it. They feel they cannot tell us for a variety of reasons and that is just not right."

This week the Government announced that Baroness Stern would lead a review and make recommendations on how to encourage more victims to report rape, ensure more cases are brought to court, fairly increase conviction rates and build confidence in how rape complaints are handled.

Kent Police's conviction rate for rape has increased year on year since 2006-07, and is currently at 9.7 per cent, which is higher than the national figure of 6.5 per cent.

"We are getting better, but still if you think about the amount of victims we think are being raped and not coming forward we cannot settle," DCI Fotheringham said.

"There is more we need to do with other agencies."

He said there was an issue about tackling society's attitudes to rape. He said he would not be surprised if some men thought they were allowed to rape their wife because they were married.

Juries still judged a woman for the way she dressed and if she had been drinking too much, he said.

DCI Fotheringham, who is deputy head of public protection for Kent Police, said: "The real challenge for us is to actually encourage victims of rape to come forward.

"There are so many myths about rape; many people believe they are perpetrated by a stranger, but it is mainly people known through socialising or domestic rape. It is just that it is not reported."

Serial offenders

In Kent, the police send a specially trained officer to any cases involving rape and DCI Fotheringham said the force was keen to get out the message that any report of rape would be taken seriously. But conviction rates remain low. Out of 411 reported rapes in 2008-09, only 40 people were convicted of rape.

"One of the things I worry about because it is actually so easy to get away with rape is that there are serial offenders out there preying on women in pubs," he said.

He said that when women report a rape their health is the first priority. They are given emergency contraception and STI tests and offered counselling. The case is then dealt with by a specially trained officer.

He welcomed the Stern Review and said there were issues with sustainable funding for rape services.

There is a specialist sexual assault clinic that covers west Kent and Medway, but not one in the east of the county.



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The event will raise vital funds for the Martha Trust, a charity providing lifelong residential and respite care for people with profound and multiple disabilities in Kent and also The Stars Foundation for Cerebral Palsy a charity who raise funds to buy mobility, communication and educational aids.



If you would like further information or to register to play, please contact Serita Boxall **01304 610448** / seritaboxall@marthatrust.org.uk or visit **www.marthatrust.org.uk**

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Collaboration will save forces more than £5m

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
stev.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A DEAL to share police resources throughout Kent and Essex could save both forces a combined total of more than £5 million.

Last year Kent was able to employ an extra 14 PCs thanks to savings made through the collaboration, with a further 23 planned by the end of the current financial year.

The partnership that began in 2007 has also resulted in crimes in both counties being solved more quickly, specialist helicopters and boats being shared, and even uniforms being purchased in bulk at cheaper prices.

Kent Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes and Kent Chief Constable Mike Fuller spoke to Kent on Sunday this week about the success of the scheme.

Mrs Barnes said: "We are at the forefront in what we are doing and other forces are beating a way to our door to ask us for advice on how we have made it work. If something is going to give us more resources and the people of Kent better value for money then we will do it, or we will find a way to do it.

"It's important to note though that this is not a merger by the back door.

Efficiency

"We still want our own police force because people identify with their own force and their own chief constable, but it's important we're always reviewing the work we do.

"There are always better ways to do things, and the collaboration we have with Essex Police is good news for everyone.

Last year the collaboration programme saved Kent £650,000, with an additional £1.1m to add on by the end of 2009-10.

The two forces have estimated that £5.4m could potentially be saved by the project long-term through joint air support, marine operations and other efficiency projects.

Mr Fuller pointed to the May, 2007, murder of Gravesend taxi driver Gian Chand Bajar as an example of a high-profile case that had benefited from the collaboration.



CASHING IN: Kent's Chief Constable Mike Fuller is pleased with the venture's success

Father-of-five Mr Bajar was run down by his own vehicle following an argument over a fare with passenger Luke Aujila, 21, who was last year sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mr Fuller said: "The first 72 hours of the case were absolutely vital. Normally we would have had to have taken officers away from their own areas in Kent to deal with it, but on this occasion Essex sent two teams of detectives down to help us.

"The people of north Kent didn't care where the policemen they were talking to came from, but it helped us a great deal and the case was solved within 24 hours.

"We also caught a man from Essex who had laundered £500,000, as his number plate was flagged up by our automatic number plate recognition system as soon as he entered the county and passed one of our cameras."

Despite the success of the collaboration, Mr Fuller said he was fearful of being penalised by the Government because of it.

He said: "We are always looking to make savings while helping the force grow, but what we don't want is to be on the receiving end of budget cuts because of our successes.

"We obviously have lots of conversations with ministers and give lots of presentations in the hope they will recognise that what we are doing is best for the people we serve and is a good example to other forces."

Meanwhile, Mrs Barnes has been elected as deputy chairman of the Association of Police Authorities, which represents forces across England and Wales at a national level.

We are running a two-month campaign taking a behind the scenes look at the work of Kent Police. This week we talk to a former drug addict about his criminal past and how today he is working with police and addicts to improve our county. **See A Safer Kent on page 12.**

Piles of success for author's (little-known) fact-finding mission



DID YOU KNOW?: Phil Mason's book reveals the popular TV comedy Steptoe and Son was rescheduled because of the 1964 election

STEPTOE and Son's influence in the 1964 General Election is one of hundreds of bizarre stories contained within a popular history book, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Former Prime Minister Harold Wilson said after his victory at the polls that by agreeing to move the hugely-popular comedy to a later time on election day, the BBC had helped Labour win at least a dozen seats because fans of the show knew they would not miss it when they went out to vote.

The little-known fact is one of many included in Napoleon's Haemorrhoids… And Other Small Events That Changed History, which has just been released in paperback following a hardback sell-out.



Waterloo

Gillingham author Phil Mason drew from his collection of more than 5,000 history books to help him with the project.

He said: "When you start to research these facts and put them all together, you realise that almost every major historical event has some element of chance or accident behind it.

"If schoolteachers are to be believed then every big thing in history happened for a big reason, but my book contains the opposite of that.

"For example, after Hitler's failed attempt to overthrow the German government in 1923, he was on the point of committing suicide when a friend stopped him. Had he not, the whole of world history could have been very different."

The name of the book – Napoleon's Haemorrhoids – refers to the final stages of the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, when a bout of piles prevented the French emperor from riding his horse.

As such he was unable to rally his troops as usual, which some historians believe played a big part in their downfall against the Duke of Wellington's men.

The book also explains how George Stephenson – builder of the world's first public railway line – could have found his task a lot more difficult had he not lied to the British government of the time about how quickly steam trains could really run.

Mr Mason said: "My approach is that anything that challenges the expected state of understanding is intriguing.

"For instance, my next book is about famous people who have been airbrushed over the years to make them seem more like heroes and give children someone to look up to.

"It's called What Needled Cleopatra?, because most people have been led to believe she was some sort of Egyptian goddess when in reality she wasn't very attractive at all."

• Napoleon's Haemorrhoids is available through JR Books, priced £8.99.

Parkinson's campaigner is positive cure not far away

A CURE for Parkinson's Disease could be just a decade away, claims a leading campaigner for research into the disease.

Last week Sevenoaks resident Flora Hill, 67, was made an honorary life member of the Parkinson's Disease Society (PDS) in recognition of an associated group she helped set up 25 years ago.

Mrs Hill told Kent on Sunday how the Special Parkinson's Research Interest Group (SPRING) had helped bring a cure for the neurological condition closer to fruition.

She added: "It's very difficult to say how near we are, but personally I feel that if the scientists concentrate on the preliminary stages of the disease then within five years we might understand how best to combat it.

"Then they would have to work on the medication, which is also difficult because animals don't get Parkinson's so you wouldn't be able to test on them. But perhaps another five or 10 years down the line and we might have found a solution."

Parkinson's is a progressive condition affecting movements such as walking, talking and writing, which occurs as a result of a loss of nerve cells in the associated part of the brain.

Mrs Hill helped establish SPRING when her husband Chris, 62, was first diagnosed with the condition.

Despite her confidence in a cure, Mrs Hill said it was important more people admitted they had the disease to help raise public awareness.

She pointed to the likes of boxing great Muhammad Ali and actor Michael J Fox as examples of those who already had.

Mrs Hill said: "The worst thing is that people are ashamed they have it because public perception is that of an old man with a tremor. In fact lots of young people have it so a lot should be done to change that perception."

Mrs Hill received her life membership in front of 400 branch members and staff at the PDS' annual branches meeting, held last weekend in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire.



Water sports boom keeps crews busy



SAFE HANDS: Lifeboat crews have had a busy time this year, with more people using the water for leisure

LIFEBOAT rescues over the summer ran at the highest level ever – including one launch to save youngsters adrift at sea on an inflatable crocodile, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

The RNLI said if more care was taken, many time-consuming, dangerous and expensive rescues could be avoided.

The incident happened off Walmer, near Deal, when two teenage girls were saved after the toy swept them away from the safety of shallow water near the beach.

A third girl had been washed off the inflatable and was pulled from the water. They had been adrift for an hour and were weakening in the incident, last month.

In a separate rescue, two girls became stranded on concrete steps at Deal pier. They became trapped because some of the steps are missing. In another avoidable incident, a man aged 64 who took a 30ft yacht out in high winds was blown overboard in the Swale.

Lifeboat helmsman Jon Carter said: "The man was secured to his yacht by a line attached to his lifejacket and his wife was onboard but unable to assist."

The RNLI was in action more often than last year, according to new figures which show a three per cent rise in call-outs.

Water safety

This was despite surveys indicating much greater public awareness of water safety. Kent lifeboats launched 195 times between June and August, compared to 189 times last summer.

The busiest stations were Ramsgate with 42 launches; Whitstable with 38; and Dover with 35 launches, up from 25 the previous summer.

Dover crews have dealt with swimmers in trouble off Folkestone, boat breakdowns, people cut off by the tide and those who have taken ill or been injured on board vessels.

RNLI divisional inspector Andrew Ashton said: "Lifeboat stations have carried out a great many rescues, exceeding even last year's figures.

"While public awareness of our safety messages has increased, demand for lifeboats has been higher than ever. This may be down to more people holidaying at home and the good weather Kent has seen this year.

"While the British public is relaxing on holiday our crews are sacrificing their time – morning, noon and night – to go to their aid. Water-based activities are increasingly accessible, meaning more people are using the sea for leisure.

"While most enjoy their water sports without getting into trouble, some end up needing the help of the RNLI's lifeboat volunteers, so it's important that this group of sea users supports us."

Despite being so busy, the RNLI is a charity and relies entirely on public funding. Donations can be made at www.rnli.org.uk or by calling 0800 543210.

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Football star Bullard's 'exciting' pub venture

A KENT pub has been snapped up by a Premiership footballer and is set for a major conversion.

Hull City midfielder Jimmy Bullard used to play for Gravesend and Northfleet before moving to West Ham, Peterborough, Wigan and Fulham.

Bullard, 30, moved to Hull's KC Stadium in a £5 million transfer in January. So far he has played just 37 minutes for the club, after damaging knee ligaments which needed surgery in the United States.

But manager Phil Brown will not be tempted to rush his player's recovery. "Jimmy is so close it's almost mouth-watering, the prospect of being able to pick him," he said.

Bullard started with Corinthians before he moved to Kent side Dartford.

While with the Darts he was noticed by Gravesend and Northfleet manager Andy Ford, who signed him on wages of £60 a week.

The former painter and decorator was at the club for six months during the 1998-99 season before being sold to West Ham United for £35,000.

Bullard, who attended Erith School, was called up for Fabio Capello's England squad last year, but did not make the starting XI.

Now he has put his dad Jimmy senior in charge of The One Bell in Old Road, Crayford, near Dartford. The price paid is not being revealed by agents Christie and Co.

They said the pub, close to the local dog track, used to concentrate on selling drinks rather than food, but that is set to change with a major refurbishment.





LOCAL HERO: Hull City FC player Jimmy Bullard, left, has bought The Old Bell pub in Crayford

It has a main bar with games area, beer garden and three-bedroom accommodation. The pub will close for refurbishment and reopen with "a more contemporary style", said the agents.

The player's father said: "This really is an exciting venture. We are rebuilding it all and will make it into an olde worlde pub that people will love.

"We won't be having a restaurant, but there will be food and it will all be homemade.

"Jimmy will be coming along to see how things are going. I can't wait to get it all up and running, which shouldn't be too long, but there's no opening date yet.

"There's so much work to be done and it all takes time. But it'll be worth it in the end. This area needs a pub like this."

Barry Fitzgerald of Christie and Co said: "We are delighted to have been able to secure such a high-profile tenant for the pub."

Policeman 'sorry' for killing woman

A SPEEDING policeman has apologised for knocking down and killing a pedestrian while delivering a birthday card to his sister in a marked patrol car.

Malcolm Searles, 24, was off-duty when his vehicle hit 61-year-old Sandra Simpson in Homesdale Road, Bromley, in August last year.

He pleaded guilty to one count of causing death by dangerous driving, one count of dangerous driving, and two of speeding when he appeared at Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday.

The court heard how Searles had used sirens and flashing lights on the night in question, despite driving the vehicle for personal errands.

A statement by his lawyer Shula de Jersey read: "The death of Sandra Simpson was a tragedy for which Malcolm Searles accepts full responsibility and apologises unreservedly to her family and friends for his actions.

"He does not expect their forgiveness but he does want them to know he is truly sorry.

"Malcolm Searles also wishes to apologise to the Metropolitan Police Service if the consequence of his behaviour has damaged public confidence in the service in which he was so proud to have served."

The charges against Searles were brought by the Crown Prosecution Service following an investigation by the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

The court was told that following the accident at 9pm on August 23 last year, emergency services staff were unable to resuscitate her.

Dismissed

Following disciplinary proceedings Searles was dismissed from the Metropolitan Police in April, prior to the criminal proceedings.

Searles went to deliver the card to his sister in Swanley. He was then returning towards the centre of Bromley when his vehicle collided with Mrs Simpson on Homesdale Road. It is estimated he was driving at more than 50mph immediately prior to the collision.

Receptionist Mrs Simpson left a daughter Natasha, 32, and sons Darren, 28, Elliot, 22.

Peter, her husband of 43 years, said at the time of the accident: "We are a close family and we are pulling together. But I don't have my Sandra any more. It's devastating."

IPCC Commissioner, Mike Franklin was furious at the breach of discipline.

He said: "This officer's behaviour in driving a police car at excessive speed in residential 30mph zones on what amounted to no more than personal errands was irresponsible in the extreme. His actions showed blatant disregard for the safety of the public, and his recklessness has cost an innocent bystander her life."

Searles will be sentenced on October 26.



PULLING TOGETHER: Sandra Simpson, who was killed, and her husband, Peter

No tolerance of hate crime

Disabled reveal violence they suffer

ATTACKS on disabled people will be top of the agenda at an anti-hate crime conference this week.

Representatives from the county council, police and various support groups will be among those discussing the worrying trend, at Ashford International Hotel on Tuesday, September 29.

The conference comes just weeks after the Government published its Hate Crime Action Plan, which sets out a range of policies designed to further protect vulnerable citizens.

One of the guest speakers at the event will be the Ashford VIP (Visually Impaired Person) group founder Susan Aiken, who is registered blind and has been a victim of disability hate crime.

She said: "Once when I was walking along the street with my cane, an arm shot out in front of me and hit me in the face. At the time I was intimidated, frightened and angry, but there was nothing I could do...

"It's almost like going back to World War Two when the Jews were persecuted by the Nazis for no reason other than their religion.

"People target us for no reason other than our disability.

"I think sometimes youths get a kick out of doing nasty things to disabled people, like it's some sort of game. It's a power thing."

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Two years ago there was national outrage when Hartlepool resident Christine Lakinski – a woman in her 50s with learning and physical disabilities – was urinated on, covered in shaving foam and filmed on a mobile telephone as she died after collapsing in the street.

Despite the circumstances of her death, police were unable to prove her assailant Anthony Anderson was motivated by hatred of her because of her disabilities.

Kent Chief Constable Mike Fuller and Kent County Council chief executive Peter Gilroy will be the main speakers at the conference, entitled Know your Rights, Right the Wrongs.

Mr Gilroy said: "It is an awful truth that disabled people are too often the victim of hate crime but have neither the means nor the access to report incidents.

"We want to make people aware that we have a zero tolerance policy in Kent to bullying and hate crimes of any nature.

"The conference will highlight for us all that in a civilised society we should treat everyone as we would wish to be treated ourselves."

As well as allowing disabled people to speak about their experiences, the gathering will also include speeches about the law surrounding disability hate crime and how it is investigated.

Police will also use the event to talk about how the force helps deaf and speech-impaired people access their services using text messages, and the advice they give to people with learning difficulties.

Mrs Aiken said: "It's all about making links between disabled people, the police, councils and everybody else. It's important to understand where hate crime begins and how it should end, because we're all human beings at the end of the day."

Teacher in gay porn row

A TEACHER at Folkestone's Harvey Grammar School has been suspended after photos of him naked and aroused appeared on a gay-porn website.

Pictures of PE teacher Sam Handley, 25, were passed between pupils at the boys' school after they were found by a student, according to The Sun.

The school confirmed that a member of staff had been suspended and sent home following allegations of improper conduct.

In the pictures, for which he uses the pseudonym Mike, he is seen reclining naked with his legs apart and grabbing his crotch through his boxer shorts.

The paper said his profile described him as "not shy about showing off his body".

Mr Handley told The Sun at his home in Willesborough, Ashford: "I didn't pose for anything pornographic."

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Breaking the vicious circle

Drug addiction has a direct link to crime that is committed to pay for the habit. Darren Dilloway has served time in prison for his drug-related crimes but now he works with the police and other drug agencies to help people trapped by their addiction. As part of our A Safer Kent campaign, taking a behind the scenes look at the work of Kent Police, TOM BETTS meets the man who has been on both sides of the system.



ADDICT: Darren Dilloway turned his life around, and now he's helping others to do the same

TURNING your life around when you are fighting a £100 a day drug addiction is no easy business but Darren Dilloway is living proof it can be done.

At the peak of his addiction Darren was in the middle of a nightmare, flitting between prisons and hostels with a spate of convictions, heroin overdoses and near death experiences under his belt. He was losing the battle and thinks he would be dead by now if he hadn't finally decided to try and escape and salvage something from life.

He said: "At one point I would honestly rather have been in prison than free. You get your three meals a day, have no bills to pay and are looked after in a way."

Darren, 34, grew up in the Medway area and got in trouble with the police in his early teens.

He dabbled with drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and LSD, before an addiction to speed got the better of him and he started stealing to pay for the habit. Skipping school, unemployment, hanging around aimlessly and car crime became the norm and he soon found himself inside, where he first took heroin.

"Many people start to do it when they go inside as a bird killer, to pass the time quicker and when I got out I realised I was addicted," he said. Years of addiction followed, with crack joining heroin on his daily wish list.

He continued: "All that interested me each day was getting money to buy drugs, taking drugs and everything that went with it. I knew the risks but still I'd have tried anything. I was stuck in a vicious circle."

Talking about his crimes, he said: "The worst thing I've done is street robberies and burglaries. I wouldn't think anything of breaking into four or five houses a day at the peak of my addiction. It didn't occur to me that there were victims, you don't really think like that."

However, after he last came out of prison, for a garage robbery, Darren decided he had to make a change: "It had got to the point where I was sick of it. I decided I could beat it but even now it's an ongoing thing. I know I could walk out of here and have the drugs I wanted in my hand in an hour, it's that easy. I take each day as it comes."

Making the break with his old life and many old friends was part of the process.

Darren has been now been clean for 18 months and has carved himself a new life. He has successfully completed a Rehabilitation Requirement and day programme and is facing the future with a renewed sense of hope.

He is volunteering and helping others with their own drug problems. Eventually he hopes to get a job as a drug support worker, helping young people understand what life as a drug addict can be like.

He said: "I want my story to be out there as it can show people they can turn their lives around. It's hard and you have to be ready and stable in life, but it is possible. If I can keep one person out of prison it will have been worth it."

Chief Superintendent Steve Corbishley, who is in charge of the Medway area for Kent Police, arrested Darren and has seen him start to turn his life around.

"I am delighted Darren is helping to stop others turning to crime," said Chief Supt Corbishley. "He can talk to offenders and potential offenders in the language they understand, and get across the message that crime really does not pay."

Burglary of homes is down nearly 40 per cent this year, which means only one or two a day in Medway which has more than 113,000 homes.

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Catering trademark row cooks up a storm

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
stece.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE rapid expansion of a Kent catering firm has been slowed by a little-known German supermarket chain.

Chatham-based Norma's Catering Ltd had applied to register its logo as part of a plan to franchise its name across the country, but the UK's Intellectual Property Office (IPO) rejected the attempt.

Officials instead agreed with the low-cost Norma Lebensmittel chain that customers could be confused into thinking the two firms were connected.

Norma's Catering managing director Andrew Mackness blasted the decision as "absolutely ridiculous".

He told Kent on Sunday: "The German company objected to our application because they wanted to protect themselves should they expand into the UK.

"But it's annoying because no-one has ever heard of them. Apparently they're only really known in eastern Germany, and they came out of the woodwork late in the trademark process.



BRAND: The Chatham-based catering company Norma's (right) was not allowed to register its name after complaints from a cut-price German supermarket chain (left)

"This won't affect our plans for growth at all though. In the worst case scenario we would have to re-brand ourselves, but that won't be the case because the firm has been in existence for 26 years and no court in the land would say we can't use Norma's name now."

Norma's Catering was originally established as the Gravesend-based Norma's Café in 1983, but became a public limited company three years ago.

Announcing his decision in the trademark battle, IPO officer Edward Smith said of the firm: "Norma's brand is particularly targeted towards the office worker and its main source of income is derived from deliveries of lunchtime meals to clients' workplaces.

"They also cater for private (including corporate) functions and provide event management, venturing into the yacht industry offering catered cruises for small parties."

Mr Smith went on to conclude that the German company offered some of the same services, and so confusion could arise.

As a result, Norma's Catering has been ordered to pay £1,500 to cover the cost of its opponent's objection.

Mr Mackness told KoS his firm would now go back to the drawing board: "We wanted to register our name for the future growth of the franchise. Our solicitors claimed to specialise in intellectual property rights but things haven't gone our way and it's cost us a good few thousand pounds.

"You apply for trademarks by category so now we will have to narrow the category because we're not a supermarket like they are. We are now considering how best to do that."

Trains on a fast track to success

THE new high-speed rail service has proved so popular with passengers the number of carriages on one of the peak-time trains has been doubled.

Earlier this month Southeastern announced that the preview of its 140mph trains would be extended to include Canterbury, Ramsgate, Folkestone West, Folkestone Central and Dover Priory.

Now, the 6.42am service from Dover Priory to London has seen its carriages doubled to 12 to cope with demand.

Vince Lucas, commercial director at the operators Southeastern, said: "To have to extend the Dover Priory service is exceptional and is, I think, a reflection of just how much time passengers are saving.

Selling point

"The new high-speed service is almost cutting travel times from Dover in half, from two hours. To be able to gain that amount of time is the best possible selling point.

"There is still a lot of hard work to do and we will continue to monitor services in the lead up to the new timetable in December."

The trains take 37 minutes to reach London St Pancras from Ashford International and the preview, which has been running since July, has been widely praised.

Travelling from the Kent stations to St Pancras using the High Speed 1 trains is costing passengers an extra £18.90 on a weekly ticket, with returns and singles an extra £8.50 and £4.40 from all the stations respectively. But the higher ticket prices do not seem to have deterred commuters.

Judith Armitt, managing director of Ashford's Future, said: "We are delighted preview services continue to prove so popular."



Slash red tape to beat budget cuts, says NHS chief

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

LIGHTENING the "huge weight" of red tape on the health service could make massive savings in the face of a future funding shortfall, according to the head of one of Kent's largest NHS organisations.

Steve Phoenix, chief executive of NHS West Kent, which has a current budget of around £900 million, said there were plans for budget increases next year, but between 2011-14 there will be a gap between demands on services and the level of funding available.

"There is a huge amount of saving that could be made in the regime of regulation and inspection," he told Kent on Sunday. "There is a huge weight of regulation and inspection that costs the country as a whole a lot of money and I think what we should be looking at is things like that."

He said he was not just talking about the new health and social care regulator, the Care Quality Commission.

"There is whole plethora of inspections, audits and regulators," he said. "The cost of the regulation regime is huge.

"It is not just the direct cost of running these agencies but what is implicit on the rest of the system to respond… An inordinate amount of time is spent preparing returns to queries, inspections and so on."

Mr Phoenix, whose career in the NHS spans 30 years, said no-one in the health service wanted to see a return to the days of long waiting lists. He said 15 years ago it was not uncommon for patients to wait two years for treatment. The typical waiting time from a patient getting referred by their GP to receiving treatment is now between eight and 10 weeks, he said.

But he did not shy away from the challenge the NHS is facing both nationally and locally.

He said: "It is a big ask to close a 20 per cent gap [in funding] and it will be a greater challenge than I can remember having been through. There were a couple of occasions in the early 80s and 90s which were difficult but they were relatively short and sharp.

"This is of a different magnitude and I don't think anyone will have had the experience of dealing with it, so it is uncharted territory.

"But in conversations with some of the senior leaders in west Kent, across the county and the south east coast region there is a determination to do it in a way that means we are maintaining all the gains we have had in terms of access and quality of care."

The primary care trust (PCT) has a history of financial difficulties. When Mr Phoenix took over the leadership of the trust in 2006 after it was formed through a merger of three separate organisations, it had a deficit forecast of £30 millon.

Balance

By the year end the deficit was down to £16m and the following year, 2007-08, the PCT had paid back £20m and balanced its books he said. In 2008-09, the PCT stayed in financial good health and this year it is on target, but he added "we are under a huge amount of pressure to balance the budget".

The difficulty for all trusts is that they do not know the funding level for the next three years.

"There are changes in demographics to keep up with, the growing elderly population," he said. "The NHS needs between one and 1.5 per cent growth per annum just to keep on top of where we are."



GOOD SERVICE: Steve Phoenix is looking to keep our county's NHS in the black

He said there were different funding scenarios but "a couple of per cent either way could be quite significant".

The amount the PCT will get depends on what happens at a national level, such as public sector pay freezes, which he said would help.

"What we'll be doing is driving for the maximum amount of efficiencies in the system," he said, adding that the cost of running the PCT was already the lowest in the south.

Mr Phoenix added: "The secret for us is to try and find ways to find savings across Kent.

"In our pathology services we've already made quite a lot of efficiencies with the pathology planning… Investing in state of the art pathology equipment giving us better quality, faster results and at a cheaper price.

"That is the sort of trick. If you compare some of our services in west Kent nationally and internationally we can be more efficient and more effective and maintain quality."

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Tarrant's TV show stitches up brothers

A HIDDEN camera show hosted by Who Wants to be a Millionare? star Chris Tarrant will catch out two schoolchildren when it hits televisions next month.

Maidstone brothers Fergus, six, and Leo, four, were tricked into running their own art stall on the streets of Tunbridge Wells while a film crew recorded their on-the-fly sales tactics from afar.

Their five minutes of fame will be aired on the first episode of Tarrant Lets the Kids Loose next weekend.

Mum Mhairi Tynan told Kent on Sunday her sons, who both attend Madginford Park Infant School in Bearsted, enjoyed the experience: "They're not stage-type children but they are both really outgoing and sociable and I thought this would be something nice for them to look back on.

"The set-up was that I took them to Tunbridge Wells and there was a street artist who asked us if we could look after his stall because he had to buy some materials.



CAUGHT OUT: Leo and Fergus star on Chris Tarrant's new show

After a while I left them on their own and watched them with the rest of the film crew, and they both had great fun talking to the customers and drawing pictures for them."

Mrs Tynan put her children forward for the show after seeing an appeal for participants on the internet.

She said she used a white lie to get them to take part in the audition process, claiming she was visiting a friend who worked at a television studio while the youngsters were filmed by hidden cameras.

The penny finally dropped when the family attended the live-audience show.

Mrs Tynan said: "All the children in the audience had drawn pictures that were shown on the big screen, but then Chris Tarrant said one in particular was really good and it was the one Fergus and Leo had done. Then they showed the film of the two of them on the art stall, and they were thrilled."

• Catch Fergus and Leo in Tarrant Lets the Kids Loose, at 6pm on Sunday, October 4, on Watch.

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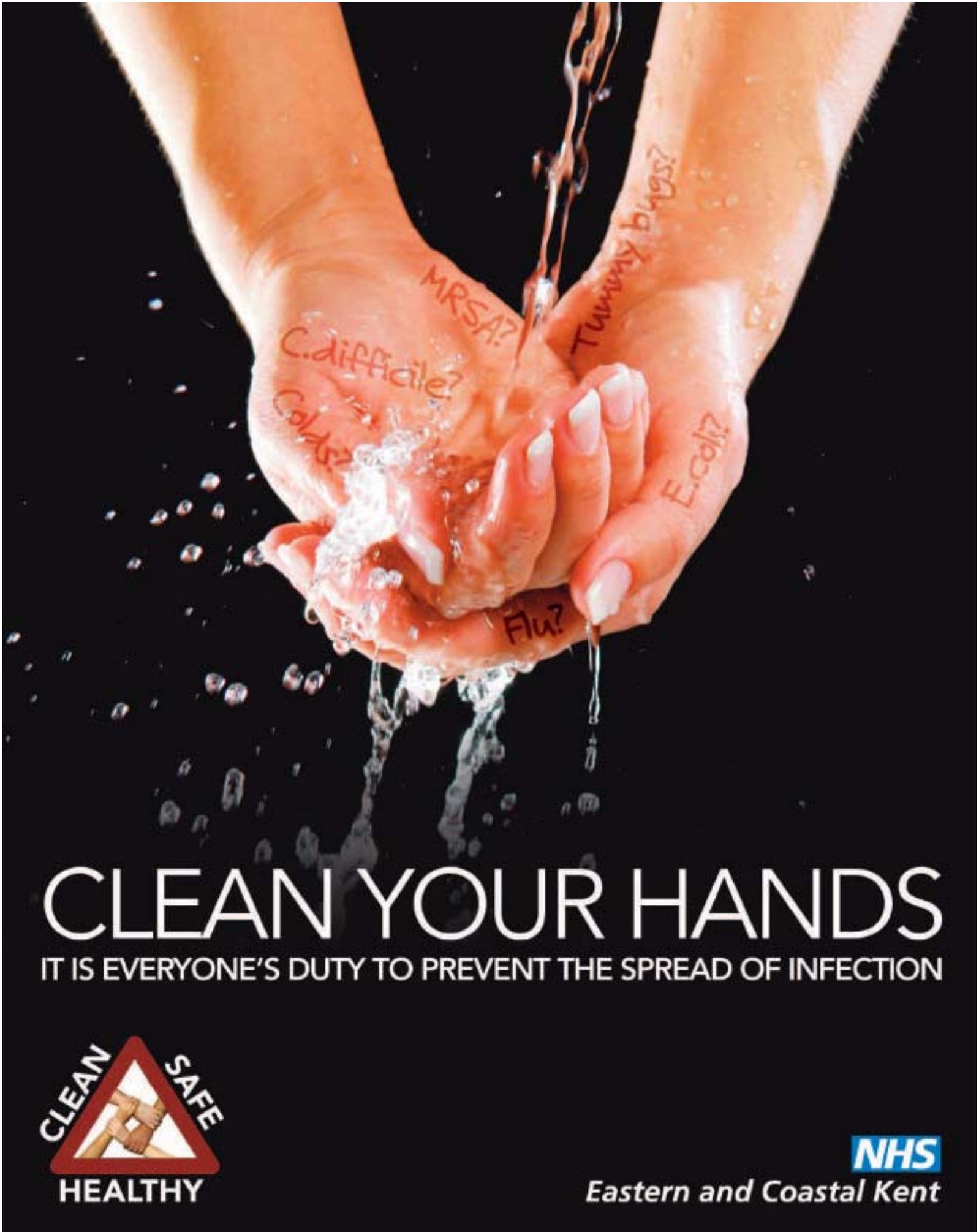
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Gilroy prepares to 'slip away quietly'

After nearly two decades at County Hall, Peter Gilroy has announced he is to stand down next year. Kent County Council's chief executive of five years said he was looking forward to spending time with his family and launching a consultancy company advising the public sector in England and America. Reporter **JENNA PUDELEK** spoke to him about his time and achievements in Kent.



BOWING OUT: KCC's chief exec Peter Gilroy

PETER Gilroy is leaving County Hall in May next year when his contract runs out and says he has achieved the targets he set himself when he took over at the helm of Britain's biggest county council.

KCC has retained its 'excellent' status and the service directorates have top star ratings. He said he has "consolidated the notion of innovation" within the pubic sector and put control and choice at the centre of services through the Kent Card, Telehealth, Gateway centres and internet service Kent TV.

"You have to invest in the future, not be a victim of it," he said. "What I've tried to do in my own small way is encourage a culture which allows us to trust that future and able to drive major efficiencies."

Mr Gilroy has been seen as an innovative and controversial leader and he recognises that change can be "threatening" for some.

Recently, it is KCC's £1 million broadband television channel Kent TV, which has attracted the most controversy.

He said: "Kent TV, I swear whether the media likes it or not, the country is moving into the digital age… It reminds me a bit of when phones came in. If you knew the fuss! They said 'it is not going to work they will never catch on'."

Isolating

He sees the future as the public sector coming together and offering joined up services from local authorities, health and the police.

"The general public don't care about organisation structure they care about the quality of the services they get," he said.

Mr Gilroy, who started his career as a nurse, came from a difficult background.

Asked how much his early experiences shaped him, he said: "Losing my family that early clearly shaped my views of all sorts of areas. Certainly, until you find yourself homeless you do not understand how difficult and isolating that is.

"At that time, others would tell me there are public services out there, but I did not feel that."

"I think I became interested in that sense of what are we doing to help those of us that fall to the wayside," he said.

"That was one of the motivational things that got me into the health services and then social work."

He said he would "slip away quietly" as KCC's chief executive, but for a man who admits to being hyperactive since he was four and who would perform Elvis impersonations and Dudley Moore sketches at staff parties, that remains to be seen.

'You're that ****** on £200,000 for emptying dustbins'

…ON SALARY

PETER Gilroy's name has become synonymous with debates about public sector pay and county hall 'fat cats' who earn more than the Prime Minister.

The former psychiatric social worker is among the top-earning council officials in the country, making £225,000 a year, for which he had faced criticism in the local and national media.

"My family, my kids get affected by it more than me," he said. "They rant saying 'they don't know what you do'.

"My own view is it is very difficult going into a recession and people struggling on wages of £12,000-13,000 are not going to say 'he deserves it'."

Mr Gilroy has amusing anecdotes about his run-ins with the public over his salary, including a fellow diner who approached him at a Tunbridge Wells restaurant to say "you're that f***er on £200,000 for emptying dustbins".

But he seemed used to laughing off the criticism.

"I've not taken it personally," he said. "They attack you, but you know it comes with the territory. We are the biggest local authority in England and no-one is going to do this for £20,000 a year.

"People need to know there are difficult set of issues to deal with, such as budgets being balanced and getting council tax to as low as possible for the public."

'We're so ageist – you are either too young or too old'

…ON AGE

LONG before anti-discrimination laws forbade it, Peter Gilroy has never asked prospective employees their age.

The Elvis fan never reveals his own age in interviews and believes "people shouldn't worry about that stuff".

"We are in such an ageist culture that for 30 years whenever I have interviewed staff I have refused to ask their date of birth," he said.

"I have never wanted to know. There is so much prejudice – you are either too young or too old. If you look, my appointments have surprised people."

He said he has raised eyebrows at County Hall by hiring a woman who was close to retirement age and another woman he appointed to a senior position who was under 30.

"It is a bit like gender – I'm not into that. If I've got two candidates I do not look at the ages, I'll go for the best candidate," he said.

"I have no qualms about that. I have also found is it is true that women tend to be better at multitasking, intuitive thinking and are under used in management."

He added: "I still jump out of planes and I still do everything I used to, all my physical activities, swimming, running and horse riding.

"It is all about attitude of mind – if you think of it that way it makes life easier."

'I would liked to have taken more interest in the regeneration of the coastal towns'

…ON HIS ACHIEVEMENTS

PETER Gilroy did not hold back when listing his achievements at County Hall, but he was also candid about an area where he believes he got wrong.

He said: "I think I would have probably liked to have been more radical and taken a closer interest in the regeneration of the coastal towns."

Speaking about the deprived coastal areas of Kent such as Thanet and Dover, he said there had been a "public policy failure".

"There has been a public policy failure about how the migrant population – and I don't mean immigrants from abroad, I mean from London – have ended up in the poorer parts of Kent and how that has impacted on the communities of these areas.

"Hotels in the 70s in seaside resorts turned into bedsits… I think I could have done more. I don't think I've done enough on that."

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Thief sent back

A 38-YEAR-old Bulgarian woman is facing the threat of deportation after she admitted stealing a purse.

Stefka Stancheva Petrova has been sentenced to 84 days in prison for the offence in The Mall shopping centre in Maidstone on August 29. Petrova, from Tottenham, was caught stealing a purse by a shopper.

The owner of the purse immediately grabbed Petrova's arm to stop her from escaping. But she broke free and used the fire escape to evade the police, changing her clothes to disguise herself. However, officers stopped her once she had left the shopping centre, after CCTV staff monitored her.

Magistrates recommended she be deported at the end of serving her sentence.

Stigma appeal

STRICTLY Come Dancing 2008 winner Camilla Dallerup will be opening an NHS roadshow when it comes to Maidstone on Wednesday.

The Time to Change roadshow is part of an ambitious programme to end discrimination faced by people who experience mental health problems.

The stand will be in Brenchley Gardens from 10am-7pm with health experts and local people with direct experience of mental health problems ready to talk to the public about their experiences.

At the stand visitors can watch videos of people speaking about their experiences of stigma and discrimination, and join the show of support for sufferers.

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Confirmed players for the tournament include debutant Pat Rafter, Goran Ivanisevic and Stefan Edberg, and with the 2008 singles line-up including Pete Sampras, John McEnroe, Pat Cash and Greg Rusedski you can be assured of an exceptional standard of tennis at every session.

This annual tournament offers the perfect combination of competitive singles and entertaining doubles matches taking place each session.

The doubles event is more relaxed than the battles which take place between singles, but still makes for compelling viewing, with wonderful displays from crowd favourites Henri Leconte, Mansour Bahrami, Pat Cash and a host of other legends of the game.

To win a pair of tickets for the afternoon session on Tuesday, December 1, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Masters Tennis Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. The closing date is October 30, 2009.



Question: Which player will make his debut at the 2009 event at the Royal Albert Hall?

1. Pat Rafter
2. Stefan Edberg
3. Greg Rusedski

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Securitas heist to get Hollywood makeover

HOLLYWOOD is planning to cash in on the Securitas heist in Tonbridge, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

A gang of six masked men was forced to ditch £153 million when they raided the security company.

But they did manage to squeeze £53m into their getaway van, and police have so far recovered £21m of the haul, which belonged to the Bank of England.

Now American director Darren Aronofsky is to produce and direct a film about the raid.

He is the man behind Oscar-nominated drama The Wrestler which saw the return to form of Hollywood bad boy Mickey Rourke.

The movie is tentatively titled Breaking the Bank. Five people have so far been jailed for the raid on the



BANGED UP: CCTV still of gun-toting raider at Securitas depot

Securitas depot in Vale Road, Tonbridge, in February, 2006.

They are: Stuart Royle, 48; Jetmir Bucpapa, 26; Lea Rusha, 35; Emir Hysenaj, 28; and Roger Coutts, 30. They received sentences ranging from 20 years to life.

Some of the gang wore latex masks as disguises and they got into the high security depot by snatching its manager, Colin Dixon, at gunpoint as he drove home to his family in Herne Bay.

A fake unmarked police car pulled him over using blue flashing lights hidden behind the grill.

Meanwhile other gang members, dressed as police officers, were picking up his wife Lynn and their eight-year-old son. They said Mr Dixon had been in an accident and they needed to go with them.

But they were taken to an isolated farm, where his wife and son were threatened to ensure Mr Dixon would co-operate.

They were all taken to the depot in a white van and locked in cash cages. When the gang left, the son was able to wriggle out and free the others, and the alarm was raised.

The film is to be based on a Sports Illustrated magazine story called Breaking the Bank, along with Howard Sounes's non-fiction book, Heist: The Inside Story of the World's Biggest Robbery.

One alleged gang member, Lee Murray, a former Ultimate Fighting Championship competitor, is now in Morocco where he is fighting extradition attempts by Kent Police.

Film-maker Aronofksy said: "The story is a unique British heist tale with colourful London characters.

"I've always wanted to shoot in England and [screenwriter] Kerry Williamson is the perfect writer to bring authenticity to this outrageous true bank job."

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Lost relics of our finest hour

AERIAL photographs of Kent's forgotten frontline form the basis of an exhibition marking 70 years since the outbreak of World War Two, ***writes Steve Knight***.

For the next two months, Whitstable Museum will be displaying a five-metre-long collection of images showing how parts of the Canterbury district's coastal region – from Seasalter to Swalecliffe – was prepared for a threatened Nazi invasion.

The exhibition was the brainchild of archaeologist Mark Harrison, with the photographs provided by the Mapping Kent group.

Mr Harrison said: "We've called it the Forgotten Frontline because although everybody knows about the role places such as Dover played in the war, nowhere near as many people know about what some of the smaller seaside towns went through. A lot of the war defences and structures were demolished after 1945 and in my view they were like 20th century castles in terms of their importance in history. What we are saying with this exhibition is let's not forget about them.

"In some respects we know more about the Roman period than we do about World War Two, and the 'living archaeology' – the people who lived through the conflict – is diminishing every year. Certain aspects have been covered very well, but the fortification of Kent is one that could do with more examination."





Pictures: TIMESCAPES 2009



CONCRETE ACTION: Tank traps

HIDDEN: Pillbox disguised as a haystack, between Whitstable and Canterbury
LEFT: Cable intended to prevent enemy gliders landing in open fields

At the end of the war in 1945, the government commissioned the RAF to take aerial photographs of the country to see how badly it had been damaged by six years of conflict. Mapping Kent owns a wide collection of the shots and was able to expand them and stitch them together for the exhibition.

Mr Harrison said: "We can now see all the defence measures that were put in around about 1940 to prevent a German invasion – things like pill boxes, tank traps and tank ditches.

"It was Kent County Council who initially asked us to undertake this project and we told them it would be great to showcase the pictures to the wider public.

"Mapping Kent stitched 40-odd aerial photographs together and now we have a panoramic view of the coastline from Seasalter to Swalecliffe so people can see for themselves how this little seaside area got itself ready for war."

The Forgotten Frontline exhibition – which also includes wartime shots not taken from the air – is open every day except Sundays, between 10am and 4pm until November 14. Mr Harrison said the photographs are all annotated for people to learn more about Kent's involvement in the conflict.

He added: "The Sportsman pub in Seasalter was billeted by the London Irish Rifles.

"In 1940, the crew of a German bomber which crash-landed on the marshes there fought with our men before being captured.

"It's thought this was the first time since the Battle of Hastings in 1066 there had been armed conflict on English soil with foreign attackers – and if not then certainly for a very long time."



LEFT: Pillbox defending the road from Whitstable to Canterbury

RIGHT: Pillbox on Seasalter Levels, part of the 'coastal crust' fortifications



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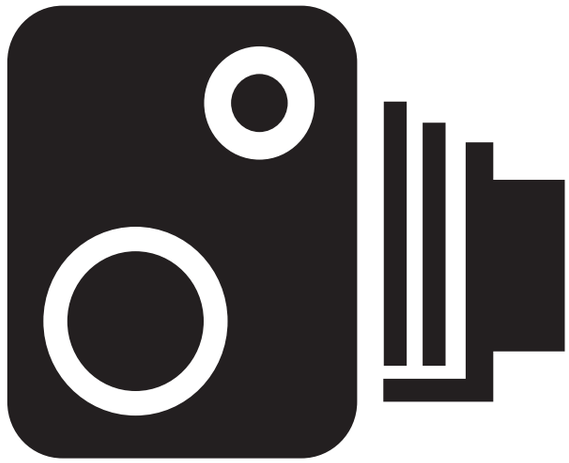
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KOS media Award Winning Company

Exhibition reveals real truth behind the masks

THE use of masks and how they feature in different cultures around the world is uncovered in a new exhibition.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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A diverse range of masks from the traditions of Topeng in Indonesia, Japanese Noh theatre, Tal'Chum in Korea as well as Commedia masks from Italy, and Menander from Ancient Greece, are on currently on display in Tunbridge Wells.

Dr Malcolm Knight, curator of the Behind the Mask show, said: "The purpose of the whole exhibition is to bring home not the universal nature of masks, because they are different in every culture, but how they spread across most of the world and are found in most countries.

"At some point or other, people have become fascinated with something other than themselves."

Dr Knight, a mask-maker himself, is founder of the Scottish Mask and Puppet Centre in Glasgow and became fascinated by the transformation masks offer because they are a way to hide identity and become something or someone else.

He said it had taken him 30 years to collect the 50 high-quality masks from around the world currently on displays at the Tunbridge Wells Museum and Art Gallery.

"I think there is something that will appeal to everybody," Dr Knight said.

Among the masks on display is one used in Day of the Dead (El Dia de los Muertos) celebrations in Mexico, which date back thousands of years to an Aztec festival.

"It is big and scary and has bright blue eyes and as skull and a face with real human hair coming out of it," Dr Knight said.

The annual holiday at the beginning of September is to remember friends and family who have died.

"Day of the Dead is very, very special in Mexico because it conveys the fact that people in cultures where death is nearer to the surface tend to make more of it," he said.

"There are questions of masks linking to ancestors, to people who have gone before.

"Their traditional purpose in tribal society as far as we could identify was to put yourself in touch with ancestors.

"They were worn at a key point in life of transition such as initiation into manhood or womanhood. In a sense masks were used as a transitional object in a ritual sense."

Masks are also still used in festivals around Europe, for example the thousands of people that gather for the annual Carnival of Basel (Basel Fasnacht) in Switzerland.

"Most of the folk traditions take people out into the streets, which is still the case in the rest of Europe," Dr Knight said.

"In the UK it tended to stop after medieval Catholic culture was destroyed and repressed by Henry VIII.

"But festivals continue in other countries where the reformation did not happen and Protestantism did not sweep Catholicism away."

The exhibition is about different theatre traditions and the masks and tools that are used to make them.

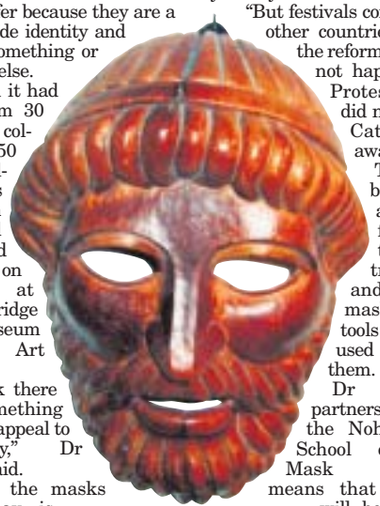
Dr Knight's partnership with the Nohzin Kai School of Noh Mask Making means that visitors will be able to see the specialised process through templates and the masks in various stages of construction as well as the tools used to make them, which are like miniature samurai swords.

There are examples of neutral male and female masks from the Lecoq School in Paris where people learn mime and other performance arts.

A rare set of tragic neutral masks designed by Margaret 'Percy' Harris for the London Theatre School in 1936, are also on display.

The masks are displayed along with wall-mounted exhibits, film footage and a mask-making area for schoolchildren.

• Behind the Mask is on display until November 1 and admission is free.



BACK TO THE FUTURE: Modern reproduction of Greek tragic hero mask



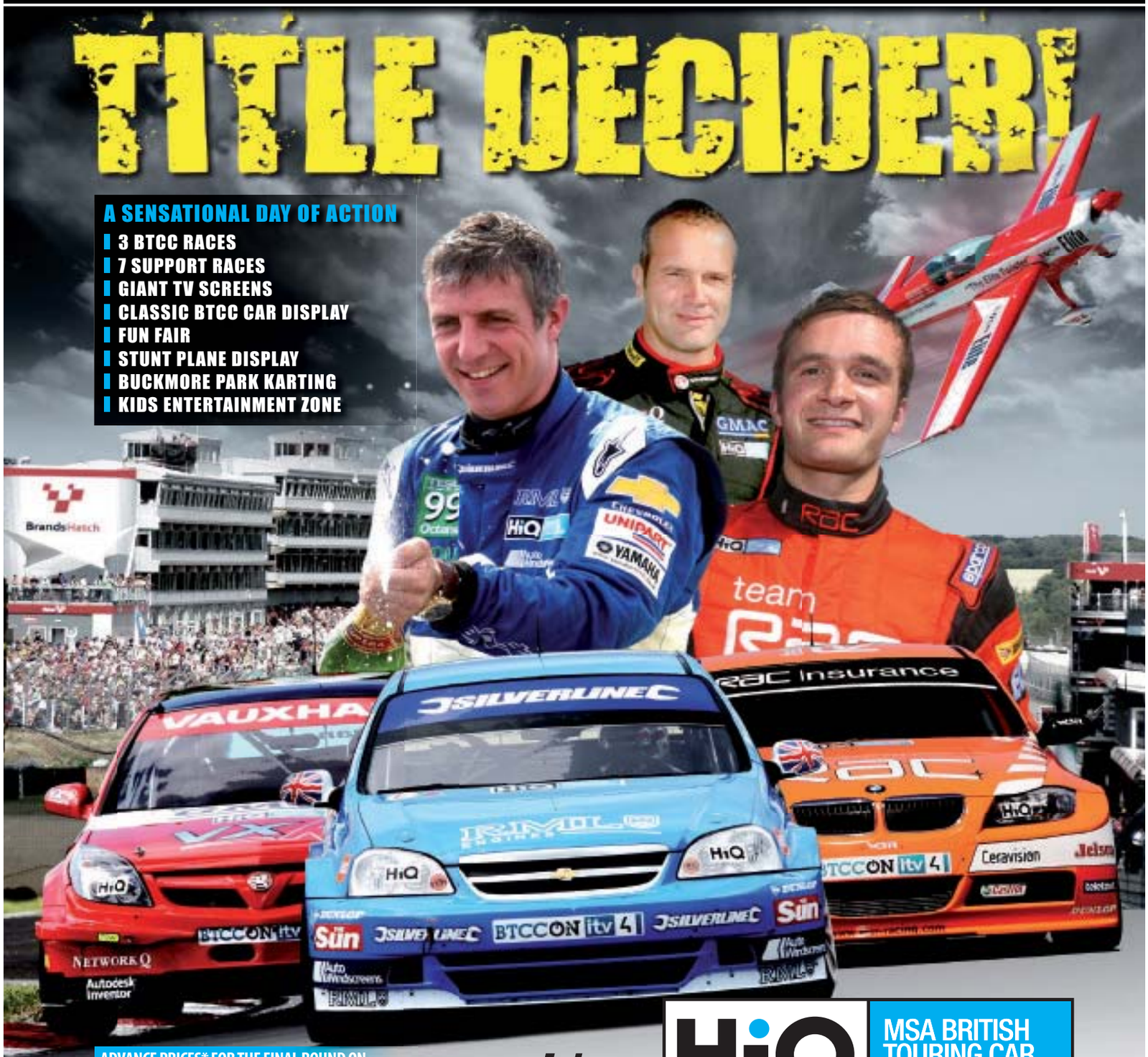
HIDDEN MEANING: 1) Korean dance mask representing the spirit of a fallen Buddhist monk – this one represents a 'stupid' character; 2) Laughing Devil mask from the Guerrero region of Mexico; 3) Patihmanis, an Indonesian Copeng mask; 4) Sambaso mask, a blackfaced old man of a god who prays for peace and tranquillity over the Earth; 5) a Day of the Dead mask used during celebrations held in Mexico



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ON YOUR MARKS: Sir Roger Bannister opens the new track

Inspirational runner opens track

ONE of Britain's greatest athletes, Sir Roger Bannister has officially opened a new athletics track.

The eight-lane floodlit athletics track at Sutton Valence School, near Maidstone, will provide a world-class training facility for local athletes in the run-up to the 2012 Olympics.

Sir Roger, who in 1954 became the first man to run the four-minute mile, explained how he gained his inspiration from one of Britain's greatest-ever middle distance runners Sidney Wooderson, a Sutton Valence old boy. He said: "He became my hero.

"He was modest and unassuming, but a great club runner.

"Sport is common to us all. We should love it and take a pride in it. With the 2012 Olympics on the horizon, what an opportunity we have."

The £800,000 track incorporates training facilities for long jump, high jump, javelin and shot.

It will be of benefit to members of Medway and Maidstone Athletic Club, who will train there five evenings a week, as well as pupils at the school and the those living in the local community.

Utility companies' water torture on their customers

WATER firms serving the county have been criticised for the high number of customer complaints they received last year.

According to the Consumer Council for Water (CCW), both South East and Southern Water attracted more grievances than most other companies, relative to the amount of people they serve.

South East Water in particular was singled out for criticism after receiving 10,006 complaints during 2008-09. Despite a drop of 1,434 from the previous year, that figure equates to 114 complaints per 10,000 customers and puts them fourth in a league table of shame.

CCW chairwoman Dame Yve Buckland said: "The figures show a step in the right direction but it is not good news for all water customers.

Poor results

"We are still particularly concerned with South East Water's complaint figures. For a smaller company that only provides water and is not involved in the sewerage side of the business, South East Water's complaint figures are very poor and have been for several years.

"We will continue to press for improvements... We are also pressing (industry regulator) Ofwat to improve the incentives for water companies to provide better service."

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

South East Water, which merged with Mid Kent Water in December, 2007, supplies drinking water to 2.1 million customers in Kent, Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire.

Last year the firm blamed a 55 per cent increase in complaints on its new billing system, but credited this year's reduction to its new customer service centre.

Customer services director Steve George said: "We agree the level of complaints in 2008-09, while lower than the year before, was too high.

"While the CCW is aware of the massive challenge behind the merging of two water companies and has been very supportive of our work to deliver a new, in-house customer service centre, our customers quite rightly should not have to feel the impact of those behind-the-scenes efforts on the service they receive.

"We are not complacent and will continue to work with CCW to fine-tune our customer service and complaint processes, and we remain confident our new team will steadily deliver improved levels of service from now on."

Southern Water provides drinking water to one million homes and sewerage services to two million across Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

While the CCW acknowledged the firm had received 48 per cent less complaints this year (down 23,203 to 25,125), it said the figure was still too high and equated to 128 complaints per 10,000 customers – placing them second on the league table.

Confident

Southern Water's customer services director Darren Bentham said: "We have listened to our customers have and, as a result, have introduced a number of initiatives we are confident will continue to improve our service.

"In the first five months of this year complaints have fallen a further 40 per cent on the figures just released.

"We understand there is still a lot to do, but we are determined to build on the progress so far."

Meanwhile, Kent's three remaining water companies were all praised by the CCW for either reducing their complaints or maintaining their low number. Veolia Water Southeast – formerly Folkestone and Dover Water – received just 165 complaints last year, with Sutton and East Surrey Water receiving just 552.

Thames Water recorded a 27 per cent drop from 52,174 to 38,204.

Nationally complaints are down by nearly 15 per cent.

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The DVD also shows the lighter side to life in the barracks – such as when in 1947 the sergeants' mess decided to hold an annual pantomime in the barracks' Globe Theatre.

We also have the Hop Pickers' Holiday DVD – In the Garden of England, recounting when entire Kentish communities relied on hops for their survival.

But this sprawling industry also depended on huge numbers of itinerant workers for the few weeks of harvest time. Thousands of Londoners headed to the fields of Kent for a working holiday – a hop picker's holiday.

Using interviews and newly discovered archive film, this DVD tells their fascinating story, and that of a once-proud industry.

The remarkable footage, in both colour and black and white, stretches from the 1920s to 50s and whisks us back to a different way of life; before themed pubs and intensive farming.

Each of these DVDs normally retails at £14.99 but KOS Media is offering readers each DVD for just £9 plus £1.99 P&P (for recorded delivery).

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A delicious celebration of food

IT is one of the highlights of the food and drink year – and thousands are set to descend on Canterbury this weekend to celebrate the very best produce our county can offer.

The Eurofair, with the Kent Food & Drink Festival, takes place in the city's Dane John Gardens. The event is staged by Canterbury City Council working in partnership with local food and drink campaigners Produced in Kent.

A wealth of stalls, including up to 30 companies from Produced in Kent, will be presenting a fine array of food and drink, while across the city centre, restaurants and businesses will have special offers and menus with a Eurofair theme. There will also be food demonstration areas and tastings, plus plenty of music and entertainment.

KOS Media – publisher of this newspaper – will also be there, handing out copies of our papers, as well as hosting a special demonstration area sponsored by Foodforkent.co.uk.

Foodforkent.co.uk is the KOS Media-backed one-stop-shop for all your family's shopping needs. It unites a host of the county's best producers under one online roof – whether it is bread, fruit, meat or drink.

Canterbury is ready to be overwhelmed with visitors as the Eurofair showcases a wealth of tasty produce

The presence of Produced in Kent will also ensure a strong local flavour to the event. Their members will be selling game, seafood, beef, pork, lamb, chocolate, fudge, bread, cakes, ice cream, marmalade, jam, chutney, cider, apple juice, wine and beer, and they will also host an English tea room.

The German Sausage Company, Haji Baji's and the Canterbury Curry Club will provide tasty hot food on site, while other delicacies include German wines, meads and liqueurs from the Canterbury Tales, as well as dips and marinades.

The Canterbury District Fairtrade Network will also have Fairtrade produce available.

For shoppers looking for something other than food and drink, there will be arts and crafts on sale – everything from soap and ceramics to paintings and handmade wooden toys, puzzles and keepsakes. And Nasons, Canterbury's only family-run department store, will present its cookware and kitchen collection.

A city spokesman added: "This year, for the first time, there is a special area for children in the shape of the Little Lounge Kids' Area, featuring entertainment and workshops put on by the organisers of the Lounge on the Farm music festival."

• The event runs from 10am to 4pm on both Saturday and Sunday. It is sponsored by SeaFrance.

Watch the experts at work

HEADING to the Eurofair this weekend? Then don't forget to check out the Foodforkent.co.uk demonstration marquee.

Over the course of the weekend there will be a host of chefs showing off their talents with some of the finest local ingredients for those visiting.

The Foodforkent.co.uk Demonstration Marquee with the Rangemaster Cookery Theatre, runs across the weekend.

Among those impressing the crowds will be Alan Irwin from the award-winning Mulberry Tree in Boughton Monchelsea, near Maidstone, and Phil Miles from Godmersham Game.

But the star turn will be on Sunday at 11.30am when Michael Caines – the director of ABode Hotels – which has a venue in the centre of Canterbury – passes on some of the expert knowledge which once made him AA Chef's Chef of the Year.





Free guide looks at a core piece of nature

Kent looks set to be the apple of the country's eye this autumn as the nation celebrates the bi-centenary of the Bramley apple and attention turns to the launch of an updated apple trail guide across the county.

The free, fold-out trail blazer, entitled Apple Source, is the initiative of food and drink champions Produced in Kent, and looks set to give readers an up-to-date taste and experience of Kent's apples, ciders, juices and orchards.

Trail users can crunch their way through Kent's fascinating apple growing and cider making heritage and enjoy a fruity walk through the county's Area of Outstanding National Beauty (AONB) – just as the apples are ripening for harvesting during September.

Apple Source is entirely free of charge and will be unveiled at this weekend's Eurofair with The Kent Food & Drink Festival. For 'food tourists' visiting Kent for the day Apple Source is also widely available throughout the autumn from tourist information centres across the county and online on www.producedinkent.co.uk.

The guide, complete with route map, details a three-mile circular walk which starts in Chilham along the North Downs Way, past an old Bramley orchard and returning to modern fruit farms within the Downs' AONB.

Julie Monkman, manager at Produced in Kent, said: "The old adage 'an apple a day keeps the doctor away' rings true with the launch of the updated Apple Source.

"With the concern about childhood obesity and five-a-day, the guide shows how apples are one of the best sweet treats available to us and are packed with vitamins and minerals and high levels of antioxidants."

The trail guide includes listings of the county's 12 'home-grown' cider works and juice companies; whilst there are also details of 20 independent shops and information on where to find farmers' markets selling many varieties of apples grown in Kent.

Julie Monkman added: "Unusually, Kent is one of the few areas that still grows such a wide variety of apples, many of which are planted and grown in the Kent Downs AONB.

"This enables us to recommend a truly memorable day out in Kent's beautiful countryside.

"As the whole country prepares to celebrate the bicentenary of the Bramley, the Apple Source apple trail is Produced in Kent's free gift to the county."

Why humans rank behind earthworms

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

LIFE forms ranging from minuscule bacteria to honey bees and cows are under the microscope of an author who explores the 100 species that changed the world.

Christopher Lloyd, 41, who lives near Sevenoaks, has followed up his popular first book on the complete history of the planet, What on Earth Happened, with What on Earth Evolved.

"The idea is to try and revise the way we look at the past because we tend to think about it as people over the past few hundred years," he said.

"My mission is to open people's eyes to the fact we got here not just because of people, but in the context of other life."

His latest offering travels back through millions of years and explores both natural and human history in an accessible way.

The former Sunday Times journalist creates a narrative from the biographies of the 50 most successful species to have emerged as a result of natural selection.

In the second part, the author looks at the impact of humans on the planet and the species that enjoyed success because of their ability to impress and accommodate the needs of people.



EVOLUTION: Christopher Lloyd, below, wants us to think about our history in relation to other species on the planet

Conflict

Mr Lloyd, who has a double first in history from Cambridge, was inspired to tackle the questions of life on Earth after a four-month trip around Europe with his family.

He had been working as chief executive of an education software company in Oxford but decided to return to writing after realising that history in its traditional sense, focusing on people, was "missing a trick" by not linking up with the natural world.

More than 20,000 copies of What on Earth Happened have sold since its launch in October last year.

Of his latest book he said: "It has the same ridiculous scope as What on Earth and is fun for people to get into."

The book goes on to explore the living things we use to help us feel good, such as flowers. Cotton, eucalyptus and silk are also highlighted as among the things humans have cultivated for their own purposes as well as animals like cows, sheep and horses.

"We have taken certain species and changed them by selective breeding, or mono crops," he said. "The diversity of living species brings into conflict nature and human systems of how the world is evolving."



The final part of the book ranks the 100 species in order of their impact on evolution, human history, the environment, their global reach and longevity.

Mr Lloyd puts earthworms as number one, which ties in with Charles Darwin, who devoted his last book to the important creatures.

Mr Lloyd said: "Without the worm digging and excavating soil, none of our crops would grow. They have been constantly ploughing for millions of years and the land would be pretty bereft without them."

Humans are sixth after algae and three bacteria.

To mark the launch of the book, Mr Lloyd has created an online game based on snakes and ladders so people can test their knowledge of the natural world. He will donate £1 to environmental charities from the book royalties for every person who plays. Go to www.whatonearthevolved.com for details.

The £25 book is published by Bloomsbury on October 5.



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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Pays to be polite

THANKS to a reduction in crime and a money-saving collaboration with another force, Kent Police was having a good week in terms of public relations.

But that was tainted on Thursday when news broke that the number of complaints made about its staff had gone up 24 per cent from last year, and a staggering 194 per cent over the last five.

Issues regarding last year's Climate Camp have been heavily reported on since, and it is clear Kent Police have to think carefully about such demonstations in the future.

But of more concern to Chief Constable Mike Fuller should be that of the 1,543 allegations recorded last year, just over 300 were down to "incivility, impoliteness and intolerance".

As TV comic Justin Lee Collins pointed out to Kent on Sunday this week, it costs nothing to be polite. In an industry where a good relationship with the public is of the utmost importance, police should have that phrase running through their heads at all times.

If residents feel they are being spoken down to by officers, then how on earth are they supposed to respect them in return?

Steptoe and won

WHO would have thought Steptoe and Son played such a huge role in the UK's Parliamentary history?

Gillingham author Phil Mason's new book explains how by moving the popular comedy to a later time slot, the BBC may have helped Harold Wilson's Labour Party win the 1964 General Election.

Unfortunately for Gordon Brown, there may well be no such bright ideas to help him out.

OPINION: Another own goal, Mr Balls

Our schools should not be an electoral football for ministers, says education chief Cllr Sarah Hohler



YOU can always tell when a general election is getting closer: Labour sends out its vanguard of cabinet ministers to act as knights in shining armour.

They announce with confidence that, through their direct intervention, they will be able to right all wrongs and save the world.

This week, it was Ed Balls' turn. He explained that an educational revolution had taken place and Labour's plan to eradicate failure was nearly complete.

Where targets had not been met (in Kent, Leeds and Suffolk), he explained that his advisers were working with education officials.

Watching Mr Balls stigmatise Kent schools brought to mind the phrase 'there are many ways to skin a cat'.

Should we be denouncing Kent's educational system and its schools in the National Challenge? I think not.

I would suggest that rather than taking one arbitrary target, we put Mr Balls' one statistic into a much broader perspective.

Almost 73 per cent of Kent students achieved five A* to C grades this year, about five per cent above the national average, and an improvement of 4.8 per cent on last year.

Nationally, the rise in A* to C pass rates was only 1.4 per cent. We have higher numbers of young people achieving five A*-C grades at GCSE than any other local authority. This includes English and maths and accounts for 51.9 per cent of the school population in Kent. Ofsted has deemed three of Kent's National Challenge schools 'outstanding'. A further 11 schools have been judged as 'good'.

Further proof is in the Contextual Value Added data, a measurement devised by the Government which takes into account the achievement of pupils during their time at secondary school and other factors, such as a deprived background.

Far too complex to explain in detail, but essentially if a school receives a score of less than 1,000 it is considered a 'coasting school'. If it achieves more than 1,000, pupils are believed to be making an above-average improvement.

Castle Community College in Deal is one of the National Challenge schools. Its latest Contextual Value Added score is 1042.2, placing it in the top 100 schools nationally. A tremendous achievement.

On the whole, parents are happy with the National Challenge schools. All schools highlighted by Mr Balls are oversubscribed. Parents feel the National Challenge is an unhelpful burden and stigma. When we broaden the perspective, it shows Kent has an exemplary education system that produces excellent results. We realise every child is unique and that education is not 'one size fits all'.

We provide parents with a choice of high-quality provision from early years, through primary, secondary and further education, with plenty of support for those with additional needs.

Our vocational curriculum is innovative, pioneering and encourages students to re-engage with education, employment and training. Kent is bucking the trend, with declining numbers of young people not in education, employment or training.

We have been working hard with schools over the years, encouraging the establishment of academies such as Folkestone, Leigh and New Line Learning.

We have also encouraged federations between grammar and high schools such as Invicta and Valley Park in Maidstone, and Dane Court and King Ethelbert in Broadstairs. At King Ethelbert, GCSE results (including English and maths at A*-C) were up 20 per cent to 34 per cent this year. We are proud of all our schools and are not afraid to intervene where required.

We are confident our National Challenge schools are on track to meet the target by 2011. A third have already met it.

We always welcome support and advice where it adds value and will discuss this further with the Department for Children, Schools and Families and our schools, who are all eager to work together to do the very best for all children and young people in Kent. I sincerely hope Mr Balls will take up our invitation to visit Kent and see success in action.

• Cllr Sarah Hohler is Kent County Council's cabinet member for children, families and education.



Pointless surgery TVs

Despite the moaning of its denigrators, the NHS is a magnificent institution, as most of its patients will confirm.

However, short of cash as it always will be with the advance of medical science, how is money found to put large television screens in surgeries?

Waiting patients who are bothered to watch are treated to simple medical hints of the 'teaching granny to suck eggs' variety or adverts. To me it appears a terrible waste of money.

Ambrose Figg, Canterbury

USA shares the guilt

It appears the victims of IRA terror attacks are to sue Libya for damages for selling the explosives.

Should they not ask themselves how the IRA got the money to pay for the arms?

Should not they ask themselves if Noraid – the Irish Northern Aid Committee – a US-based group of British-haters, are the ones to sue? In any case, many people believe the Lockerbie bomber, who was recently released to die at home, was not guilty.

Jack Joinley, Faversham

The nattering can wait

That speed cameras are soon to be used to combat motorists who throw caution to the wind by talking on hand-held mobile phones while driving is very welcome news (Speed cameras on the hunt for phone offences, KoS, last week).

Reckless individuals who put their own and others' safety in danger deserve to be fined and get points on their licences.

These fools seem to think chatting into a phone in one hand while their other hand rests on the steering wheel is without risk.

This type of behaviour severely impairs a driver's concentration, making accidents much more likely. Do these multi-tasking contortionists not remember how carefully and responsibly they drove on the day they passed their tests?

That impeccable standard should remain. It is unacceptable to bend the rules the moment one becomes fully licensed.

Life is too precious to take one's mind off the road ahead for the sake of a trivial natter that could quite easily have waited.

Clive Wilkins-Oppler, Canterbury

Misleading climate picture

I am writing to take issue with last week's environmental photography competition feature.

While the results you showed were good photos, the environmental claims made for them are suspect at best.

The winning entry was a fine picture, but a flood plain covered in water after heavy rains in January can hardly be claimed to be too unusual – there is something of a clue in the description 'flood plain', after all.

Pictures of stormy seas and frosty gardens? I'm at a loss to understand the direct connection with climate change for any of the entries, but not too surprised, as it seems that nowadays any variation or change to weather patterns can be laid at the door of climate change with no scientific basis or reasoning.

If the winter rains are light for the next few years and the flood plains are dry, it'll all be down to… you get the idea.

It seems increasingly that a lot of evidence is being twisted to suit the desired models. If climate change issues are to have any credibility, it needs to be due to objective science alone, not mass hysteria and dubious claims.

Nigel Clark, Hythe

Candid about cameras

You recently published an article about the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership announcing a dramatic fall in prosecutions. Of course, this has always been their stated aim, to reduce speeding and hence accidents.

But this fall also means a loss of income, perhaps with jobs and pensions on the line. To counteract this, the partnership has now widened its scope to include seatbelt and handheld phone laws to keep their paymasters happy.

Could I ask, when has not wearing a seat belt (which includes passengers) contributed to the driver having an accident?

For decades the police and taxi drivers have driven one-handed, using handheld radios (in fact it is still legal to do so), but to use a handheld phone, regardless of circumstances, means instant prosecution. We now have a society where people are judged by machines and not on the discretion and common sense of a fellow human being. New laws, which the Independent Safeguarding Authority quango will start to enforce next month, will mean millions of new 'criminals' will be created and come under the watchful eye of the State, as it seeks ever more ways to enforce and bully us into being a nation of obedient drones.

It won't be too long before speed cameras will be used to target people who may be carrying somebody else's kids without the required expensive piece of paper.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Keep up the A&E fight

Queen Mary's Hospital in Sidcup closed its A&E unit between the hours of 8pm and 8am on September 8 and will continue to do so every night 'temporarily'.

Queen Mary's Trust blames the closure on "serious staff shortages". This is nonsense. They're not even trying to fill the vacancies.

Queen Mary's online jobs website shows only five vacancies – none in A&E.

The staff shortage excuse is just a smokescreen behind which the trust's board members are hiding as they plan to make the temporary closure permanent and continue their scheming to sell off parts of the site.

Instead of planning for growth, they're planning to turn Queen Mary's into another housing estate (with no hospital nearby).

Don't let them get away with it. Sign our online petition calling for a 24-hour A&E to be reinstated. After one week we have more than 400 signatures.

Your name can be withheld and you can leave a message that can be read by others.

Sign online by going to www.faect.org.uk and clicking on the blue Sign my Petition button – and tell your friends about it.

Many thanks – and let's keep up the fight.

John Hemming-Clark, Independents to Save Queen Mary's Hospital, Chislehurst

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Letters continued on page 32

Pent Valley Technology College



Invitation for Year 6 students and parents

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8 Open mornings

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www.pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr M Citro

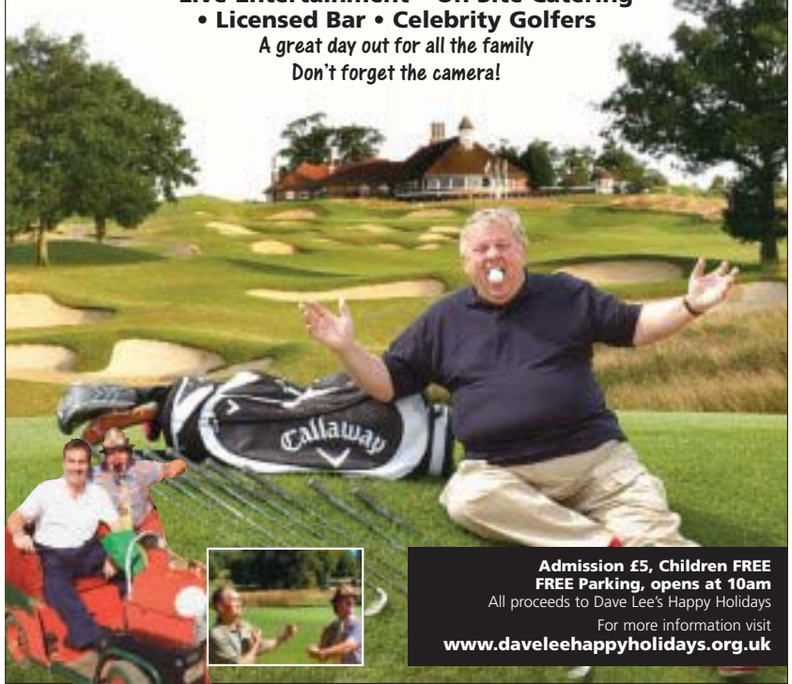
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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday on 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ARCHER-SIMMS
Sophia Marie Archer-Simms born on 11th September 2009 at Maidstone Hospital weighing 7lbs 2ozs. Lots of love from Mum and Dad (James Archer-Simms and Emma Rufus).

BURY
Suzanna Bury born on 13th September 2009 at 16:30 hrs in Maidstone Hospital weighing 3360g. Daughter to Wiktor and Monika in Maidstone.

CHAPMAN
Beth and Danny celebrate the birth of their daughter Daisy Chapman on 13th September 2009. Sister to Jack.

COTTAGE
Daisy Pebbles who was born on 24th August 2009 would like to say hello to everyone who knows her and a special thanks to her mum and dad - Paul and Jo.

DENNESS
Oliver John born on the 13th September 2009, weighing 7lb 10oz. Son to Daniel and Joanne Denness brother to Harry in Headcorn.

FLETCHER
Samuel born on 18th September 2009 weighing 6lbs 9oz. Son to Michelle and Robert and brother to Ben and James.

GREENSLADE
Ian and Monika are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Laura Stasselova Greenslade. Laura was born on the 18th September 2009 at 5.32 pm and weighed 6lb 13oz. All the family in England and Slovakia are very happy and thrilled at her arrival.

JOSEPH-IYANDA
Joseph and Tolulope are delighted to announce the birth of their baby boy Jordan Oluwadarasimi Joseph-Iyanda. He was born on the 29th August 2009 at 10.27 pm and weighed 3.37 kg.

MATTHEWS
Camron Ernie Matthews born 1st September 2009 weighing 5lb 11 oz Son to David and Michelle Matthews.

McSWEENEY
Vincent born on 25th August 2009, weighing 7lbs 14oz. Son to Fleur Bath and Jay McSweeney in Margate.

MILLS
Jacob William Mills was born at 9.50am on the 15th September 2009 to his delighted parents Mathew and Mahera. He weighed 8lb 6oz and moher and baby are doing well.

OSHO
David and Olajumoke are very happy to announce the safe arrival of their son Gabriel Ireayo Ezekiel Osho who was born at Darent Valley Hospital on the 31st August. He weighed 3.828 kg.

REDFORD
David and Nickie of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Rosie May Jean, on 15th September 2009. A new sister for Georgie, Billy and Daisy.

RICKETTS
We are delighted proud parents of Amarni Jessica Ricketts, our beautiful daughter who was born on 17th August 2009 at QEQM at 6:41am.

SIMPSON
Kayleigh and Dan celebrate the birth of their son Tobias younger brother of Nathaniel weighing in at a massive 10lbs 3oz on the 10th September 2009

STOKES
Owen James born on 5th September 2009, weighing 7lbs 13.5oz. Son to John and Natalie in Ramsgate. Little brother for Leah.

WEST
Kaitlyn born on 15th September 2009, weighing 8lbs 12oz. Daughter to Ryan and Sarmite West and sister to Evia in Snodland.

WESTON
Tim and Michelle of Whitstable are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter, Ellie Patricia Weston, on 2nd September 2009.

WYLES
We are delighted to announce the birth of Jack David Wyles, born on 16th September 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford. A wonderful first son for David and Marie.

DEATHS

BARNES
We regret to announce the death on 18th September 2009 of Frederick Barnes aged 96. He died peacefully and is now re-united with his dear wife Madge. He will be sadly missed by Sheila, Doreen and Cynthia and all the grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

FINCH
It is with great regret that Janet Patricia Finch (nee Bodle) died peacefully at home on Monday 21st September 2009. She will be very sadly missed by her daughters Karen, Cheryl and Paula and her partner Colin. Also her 5 grand children. Funeral enquiries to Lewis Solomon. Family flowers only. Donations to Eleanor Lions Hospice please.

FULLER
Ethel Fuller aged 79 died on the 18th September 2009 now at peace, dearly loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Will be missed by all. Funeral to be held at Medway Crematorium on Tuesday 29th September at 12.00pm. Family flowers only but donations to Marie Curie Cancer Care.

SAGE
Iris Sage passed away on 15th September 2009 aged 76. Dearly loved mother of Carol and Robert and mother-in-law of Trevor and Ann and grandmother of Ben, Lauren, Emma, and Holly. Funeral service took place at All Saints, Snodland on Thursday 24th September, any donations to The Royal Marsden Hospital.

SIDDERS
Violet May Sidders of Faversham (formerly of Elham and Teynham) passed away peacefully on 16th September 2009 aged 85, a fighter to the end. A much loved mum, grandmother and great grandmother. She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her. To attend the celebration of Violets life please contact a family member.

SUTTON
Anne Sutton passed away on 18th September 2009, aged 52. Dearly loved wife of Marcus and mother of Katrina and Markus. Family flowers only but donations can be made to The Heart of Kent Hospice at the funeral service or through K. B. Silla in Cranbrook, Tel 01580 712284.

WILLIAMS
John Francis Williams passed away on 14th September 2009, aged 84. Dearly loved husband of Barbara. Dad of Denise and Deborah, Grandad and Great Grandad. Will be sadly missed by all. Funeral Service at Medway Crematorium @ 12.20pm on the 29th September 2009. Flowers or donations are welcome to The Heart of Kent Hospice.

WOODS
Sidney Thomas Woods, on 8th September 2009, aged 79. Dearly loved father of Rosalind. Cremation Service at Tunbridge Wells on Weds 30th Sept at 2pm. Flowers welcome or donations for Seal Primary School via Hodges Funeral Directors at Riverhead.

Letters continued from page 31

That's your job, Trudy

The appeal by Cllr Trudy Dean, leader of the Liberal Democrat group on Kent County Council, for the public's help in cutting KCC's services (letters, last week) shows with startling clarity the dangers that the people of Kent face now there is no real challenge and scrutiny of Kent's Conservative regime.

Cllr Dean, as chair of the scrutiny committee, asks council tax-payers to let her "know of examples where KCC wastes money".

But the council tax-payers of Kent are equally entitled to ask her why she cannot identify areas of waste herself.

They are also entitled to ask why, if she can see no waste herself, she has effectively declared that she will collaborate with the Conservative administration in a campaign of service cuts. Perhaps if Cllr Dean had been able to attend just a few more of the cabinet scrutiny committee's agenda-setting meetings over the last eight years she might have had a better knowledge of the areas of real waste and the areas of real need.

Cllr Mike Eddy (Labour), Dover District Council, Mill Hill, Deal

A top-flight suggestion

There would seem to be an easy answer in finding £40,000 for the two replica aircraft at the gates of Biggin Hill.

Next year's airshow is the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, and takes place at the most famous fighter station in the battle. According to the organisers, 110,000 people attended this year, so it would be hard not to assume at least the same numbers in 2010, given the anniversary and location.

So, how about 50p on the ticket price to pay for the replicas in one go? If the organisers announce this swiftly, the suppliers can get to work on the replacements knowing they are to be paid, the audience know their money is going to an excellent and highly appropriate cause, and the replicas would be ready to unveil at the anniversary next year during the air show.

All attending are going partly because of the debt we all have to the Few, so all should be happy with the outcome.

Why complicate matters? I'm happy to pay my 50p and, as a professional in the business of organising exhibitions and events, may I suggest to the organisers that the positive publicity for this move would be far better (and far more effective PR) than trying to defend a possible view of 'humbug' when someone else inevitably comes up with the same idea? Give your event a massive PR boost and make the offer – it costs nothing and gives to all.

Neil Wood, by email

Heed red kiosk call

The BT consultation period on payphones ends at the end of October and many parish councils have contacted our campaign, blissfully unaware of the rules relating to public payphone removals.

BT is intending to remove payphones – at least 100 – all over Kent. Many of the K6 Jubilee red telephone kiosks are listed, but BT is ignoring the listed status and stating they are under threat if not adopted by local councils.

This is not so and misleading. Under telecom regulations, a payphone cannot be removed if people object. We urge parish councils and residents who have a traditional K6 Jubilee kiosk they wish to keep to object to its removal with their district authority and directly to BT.

This will save the telephone box. It is extremely important to object if a kiosk is listed. A listed K6 should not be adopted but kept as an operational telephone – the purpose of its listed status. There is very little goodwill from BT, which could encourage greater use of payphones.

For a payphone to be viable it only has to take one call a day – just 40p a day retains it. Any K6 kiosk scheduled for removal should have a BT notice inside.

Help us save this famous British icon.

Graham Wanstall, Save the K6 Jubilee Phone Kiosk Campaign

Spacious gravy train

EU buildings now occupy a total of 1.9 million square metres of office space in Brussels. In addition, a new EU building to house the office of a new president is being built at a cost of £280m.

This complex is named the Résidence Palace and will have 27,000 sq m of floor space and will stand opposite the European Commission's Berlaymont building, which has floor space of 29,000 sq m.

During the last 14 years, EU leaders, ministers and diplomats have been meeting in a building called the Justus Lipsius and over half of that is occupied by the commission, which spent £185m on its offices in 2008.

The palace houses luxury apartments, a private theatre, swimming pool and restaurants. In 1940 it was the headquarters of the German army during the Nazi occupation of Belgium. It's nice to know how our money is spent and that our unelected representatives are properly looked after.

Victor Webb, UKIP parliamentary candidate, Tunbridge Wells

Inspirational youth

I had the privilege of attending the county final of the Tryangle Awards in Ashford.

The event brings together winners from across the county to highlight some of the inspirational examples of young people.

There were many fine examples from across Kent, but I was very proud to have seen Medway represented by Ellis Foreshaw and Rennick Graham, two young people who together formed Clown Ice Productions. They have used music to voice their positive message against knife and gun crime at such events as Love Music Hate Racism and Youth Can Shine.

All too often negative stereotypes of hoodies and troubled youths are seen in certain areas of the media. It's important to remember this is a tiny percentage of young people, with good stories often not making the headlines.

The Tryangle Awards is a great chance to highlight the positive efforts of young people.

My congratulations to all involved.

Cllr Vince Maple, Labour, Chatham Central

Marcus was not alone

The controversial death of Marcus the sheep will not have been in vain it if makes more people think before buying meat.

We call ourselves a nation of animal lovers, yet millions of animals are reared in factory farms and slaughtered at just a few months or weeks old. The conditions on factory farms are far removed from the happy farmyard scenes you see on egg boxes or in TV ads. Modern factory units exist to produce meat and dairy products as quickly and cheaply as possible and the animals are given the bare minimum needed to survive.

Crammed into stinking sheds where they are barely able to stretch their wings or legs, they will never roam freely. Nor will they ever breathe fresh air or see natural daylight.

Death at the slaughterhouse is a terrifying, bloody experience. It's clear that most farmed animals' lives will have been far worse than that of Marcus, so I would appeal to anyone who was shocked by his death to make the commitment to go vegetarian or vegan.

Richard Mountford, Animal Aid, Tonbridge

Our runners were great

I am writing to thank our runners for taking part in this year's Great North Run and all your readers who supported them. The event was a great success, with thousands raised for World Cancer Research Fund's work into the link between lifestyle and cancer.

Our runners worked very hard in training and we are grateful for their support. It's not too late to sponsor WCRF's Great North Run team. Visit www.wcrf-uk.org/sponsor or call 020 7343 4205.

Natalie Tarrant, WCRF

Giving a home to hope

The Prime Minister was right to tell the TUC conference that "every mortgage repossession is a hope destroyed", and it is because of the devastating impact that losing your home can have that The Hyde Group has acted to prevent customers' properties being repossessed.

In 2008, we set aside £250,000 to help those struggling to meet mortgage repayments. Under the initiative, Hyde buys back a share of the home to ease the burden and prevent repossession. The added good news is that the customer can buy the equity back when their financial position has improved. We are pleased this scheme has helped those in danger of losing their homes to stay put.

Repossession must always be a last resort.

David Eastgate, chief executive, Hyde Group









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Green library opens for term

A NEW state-of-the-art library costing £35million has opened at a Kent university in time for the new term.

Canterbury Christ Church University said the building, Augustine House, is the most significant investment made since it was established in 1962.

The building is also home to student support services and its bold, contemporary design is on the site of a former 1970s office block.

It is environmentally sustainable and 94 double-decker buses could fit into its atrium.

The university said other capital projects this year have included a £4.9 million sports centre and the creation of University Centre Folkestone in partnership with the University of Greenwich.

Budding engineers are building on foundation of previous experience

TRAINEE engineers from Kent are among 19 students who have started on a programme run by power giant EDF Energy Networks to tackle a skills gap in the industry, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

The students are currently completing an intensive induction course on safety, emergency planning, communication skills and customer relations as part of the two-and-a-half-year Engineers Development Programme (EDP).

Despite coming from diverse backgrounds, the three trainees are all set to become qualified electrical engineers.

James Banting, 21, who lives in Sittingbourne, completed an apprenticeship in electrical engineering with Aylesford Newsprint.

He has experience in electrical systems and worked in the maintenance team at the mill, keeping the paper machine running.

"This course gives me a chance to gain new qualifications and specialist skills in the high voltage electricity distribution network, which has always interested me.

Action-packed

"In the future I hope to become a field engineer and use the skills I have learnt during the EDP. It's an interesting, action-packed programme and there is quite a lot to do.

"This will be the first time I have been to university and I'm looking forward to the challenge."

Mwelwa Chibwe, 42, is originally from Zambia and now lives in Chatham.

He studied at the University of Zambia and worked on construction projects there and in Botswana before moving to England in 2006 and joined EDF Energy Networks.

He has worked as a site manger on the London Underground stations refurbishment project.

"I have a background in engineering and trained as a civil engineer, so I'm looking forward to taking up an engineering role again," he said.

"Returning to studies is going to be a challenge having been out of education for so many years – but it's exciting and I'm looking forward to it."

Pauline Yau, who lives in Dartford, joined the company in 2004 as an administrative clerk and moved from there to a role as a trainee project designer.

The 34-year-old said: "The programme will give me the opportunity to see what the rest of the company does, further my education, be a more rounded individual and find a job better suited to me.

"I'm thinking in the future about becoming a senior authorised engineer, switching at the very high voltages."

The EDP was designed to bridge the gap between the energy company's existing apprenticeship and graduate training schemes.

Each of the trainees will study for a foundation degree in power distribution engineering at London South Bank University.

Emma Nicholls, head of resourcing at EDF Energy Networks, said: "We must invest in the future engineering talent of our company as well as developing our existing employees to gain enhanced skills and move up the career ladder."

See www.edfenergy.com/core/careers for more information.



Apprentices are on the right track

STUDENTS from Kent and the rest of the South East are among more than 200 taking part in an award-winning advanced apprenticeship scheme run by Network Rail.

The company, which owns and operates the country's rail infrastructure, said the apprentices would spend their first year studying at Europe's largest specialist engineering training centre at HMS Sultan in Hampshire.

In their second and third years the young engineers will be learning on the job at depots across the country, including in Ashford, Canterbury, Orpington and Tonbridge.

Network Rail chief executive Iain Coucher, said: "This is an exciting time to begin working in the industry, to train and develop so they can be part of the future of Network Rail.

"I believe investing in our people is an investment in all our futures, building a better railway and a better skilled Britain."

He said the young people would become part of the latest rail revolution which will see £35 billion invested in the infrastructure over the next five years. They will become specialists in track, signalling, electrification and plant, or telecoms.

Recruiting for 2010 begins in January, see www.everydaybrilliance.co.uk.

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Childcare unit helps educate all of the family

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

GETTING education right at the earliest age can unlock so much potential in a child's later life.

Kent County Council's early years and childcare operations unit is responsible for making sure all children in the county have access to both childcare and early education, whether through nurseries, childminders, pre-schools or playgroups.

Every three and four-year-old child in Kent is entitled to 12.5 hours of free early education per week, for 38 weeks of the year during term time.

The good news is that from September, 2010, this will be increased to 15 hours.

Cabinet member for children, families and education Cllr Sarah Hohler said: "Early education starts long before the free part-time places for three and four-year-olds, it begins in the home from a very early age.

"Children from a supportive, structured family environment settle more happily into formal education. It's not about teaching them to read, write or count, it's about giving them an appetite for learning."

Opportunities

The unit is also responsible for leading on children's centres. These are different as they offer services to parents and their children from birth to age five.

This can be anything from health visitors and midwives providing expert healthcare advice to childcare, play and learning for babies and toddlers. It also includes healthy eating classes, baby massage and dads' groups.

Cllr Hohler said: "Children's centres give advice on parenting for mums and dads in a relaxed informal environment and provide opportunities for parents to brush up on their skills or learn new ones. By providing links to training and job opportunities, together with family fun, they improve outcomes for everyone concerned."

By 2010, every community in Kent will have access to a children's centre or the services they provide.



The Kent children and families information service provides free impartial advice and guidance to parents looking for childcare, as well as those who are thinking about a career in childcare or setting up their own childcare business.

The service operates from Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm, with a 24-hour answerphone. The number is 08000 323230. Information is also available online at www.kent.gov.uk/cfis.

Parents can call to find out about childcare to suit their individual needs, whether that's with a nursery, childminder, pre-school, playgroup, before or after-school club or holiday playscheme.

The service also provides information to parents of children and young people up to the age of 20, and acts as a signposting service to agencies or organisations who can be of real benefit to mums and dads in their parenting role.

They can also offer parents advice on tax credits and help with paying their childcare costs as well as detailed advice about the free, early education entitlement.

For more information about any of the services provided by the unit, phone the Kent children and families information service, on 08000 323230.

New code of conduct fears from teachers

FUN-LOVING teachers are furious with a new code of conduct due to be enforced next month, because it is too wide-ranging.

Some of the conditions are so sweeping teachers believe they can be used against them if they are seen out on the town, drinking and having a good time.

One of Britain's largest teaching unions, the NASUWT, launched an online petition demanding its withdrawal.

Within weeks, more than 10,000 teachers had signed, including many from Kent.

One said: "I can't believe this is hanging over our heads. I like to go out from time to time and I don't want to have to think I need to behave like an angel for every second of my life. Sometimes I like to let my hair down, and have a great time. That doesn't mean being anti-social.

"But these guidelines suggest I can't even have a boozy night out with my friends."

The petition demands the scrapping of the General Teaching Council for England's Code of Conduct and Practice.

Chris Keates, the union's general secretary, said: "The NASUWT is deeply concerned about the content of the code. It is riddled with vague statements that are open to wide interpretation and abuse, putting the careers and jobs of teachers and headteachers at risk. It is unnecessarily long, littered with pious statements, conflicts with contractual provisions and intrudes into private lives.

"Teachers and headteachers must of course behave in a professional manner, but the code has unreasonable expectations about how they should conduct themselves.

"We also have serious concerns about how the consultation that led to this code was conducted. It was fundamentally flawed in a number of respects.

"The fact the GTCE now intends to spend more than £250,000 of teachers' registration fees promoting the code is ludicrous.

"Nothing in this code will raise or enhance the status and standing of the profession.

"The code should be withdrawn and a fundamental review undertaken of what constitutes an effective code of conduct and practice.

"Thousands of teachers have already signed our petition, but perhaps even more illustrative of teachers' views are the comments those signing have added. It is evident from these the most fundamental objections go beyond the code to the GTCE itself."

The Kent teacher, who asked not to be identified, said: "We all realise we have an obligation not to break the law, but this goes too far."

Men-only group learn the art of parenting with their peers

IT'S not all about mums bonding with their children – dads need to as well, and they can with a special men-only group.

Parenting is all about strengthening bonds, and now there is a corner of Chatham where dads are being given the opportunity to spend precious time getting to know their children.

The men-only group meets on alternate Saturday mornings at the All Saints Children's Centre in Magpie Hall Road, giving fathers the chance to talk to other men about their children and parenting, something of a rarity in the community.

The dads can spend the two-hour sessions on a range of activities, from painting or cooking healthy treats, to playing with a colourful collection of toys and games.

The group celebrated its third birthday this year and Andy Kirkaldy and his daughter Adele are regular faces at the group.

Andy said: "I used to come to some of the centre's drop-in sessions, but I was the only man there; it can be a bit intimidating being the only man in a room full of women.

"I have made some really good friends since I started coming here. There are not many opportunities for men to spend quality time with their children and other men. It also gives my wife the opportunity to spend time with our other daughter while I am here."

Nick Stahl and his son Zack have recently started coming to the group after hearing about it through his partner's antenatal group.

Nick said: "I work during the week and don't always get to see him. This gives me the chance to spend time with Zack and gives my partner some time to herself. I think this group is great."

Eileen Braham, who runs the Saturday morning group, hopes it increases men's confidence about parenting their children.

She said: "The aim of the group is to increase the number of fun opportunities for dads to play with their children, enhancing the attachment between dad and child.

"It also gives the children the chance to mix with other children.

"We have found that a large number of men spend time with their children on Saturdays, so I hope this group provides somewhere safe and stimulating to play. Dads can have open discussions with each other about parenting issues, something that they may not feel comfortable doing in another environment."

The group meets from 10am-noon.

For more information phone Eileen on 01634 338850.



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Schools face threat after talk of £2bn spending cut

BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

EDUCATION chiefs at County Hall and union leaders have come out fighting after the Government announced that primary school budgets could be under threat.

Ed Balls says he can carve £2 billion from UK education spending.

It's the latest revelation since Gordon Brown finally uttered the word "cuts" out loud, though promising all the spending reductions would be on unnecessary things.

But the announcement from the schools secretary has sent a tidal wave of anger through the sector.

Mr Balls said it may be possible to join many primary schools together and run them with a single team of staff as part of so-called 'federations'.

The figure of 3,000 senior school staff being axed has been banded about – some of them will be headteachers and deputies.

Mr Balls reckons many will be saved using "natural wastage".

Kent County Council's cabinet member for children, families and education, Sarah Hohler, is angry at the announcement.

She said: "Any proposed reduction in the budget for schools could have a grave impact on education in Kent.

"For example, a five per cent budget reduction would leave about 190 schools facing a deficit. Governing bodies would have to find ways to balance the books, as they are responsible for allocating the funding they receive.

"Some suggestions that have been put forward by the Secretary of State such as school federations and clawing back surplus funds have already been implemented widely in Kent.

"Scrapping the burdening and expensive national field force advisors would be a welcome move and there may be other areas where we might have common ground.

"Making sure front-line budgets are protected is vitally important, though.

"We owe it to our young people to provide them with an education that will give them every opportunity to succeed in the career of their choice."

Curriculum

And Christine Blower, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "There are some programmes that actually we would have said, OK, no problem. We would have been delighted if they cut the academies programme.

"It's been riddled with some very big spending on very big buildings and there are some heads being paid ludicrous amounts of money in academies.

"But the idea you can get rid of heads of primary schools, and the idea that heads and deputy heads can be categorised as bureaucrats – I'm afraid that's just nonsense."

She added: "What we would have then would be a secondary school essentially managing a lot of primary schools and the fact is the very best pedagogical practice [teaching strategies] in our system is in early years and primary schools."

Civil servants who advise on curriculums could also face job losses. Pay is another vital area that needs to be examined.

Mr Balls said: "If we are going to keep teachers and teaching assistants on the front line, that means we are going to have to be disciplined on public sector pay, including in education."

Merging schools was vital, but bigger classes have been ruled out.

Mr Balls said: "You might have a headteacher and a team of deputy heads working across the different schools. But we are not going to have larger class sizes."



Attitudes to blame for lack of male teaching at primary

THE chance of spotting a male teacher in a Kent primary school is pretty slim and the guys blame current attitudes for putting them off.

Some 42 per cent say a poor reception is to blame for keeping them out of primary classes, according to a new far-reaching report.

A fifth of them see the job as purely one for females – but the public disagrees.

Researchers quizzed more than 2,000 people for the Training and Development Agency for Schools and they found most of them would prefer a more even split between men and women by the blackboard in juniors and infants schools.

Some 72 per cent think it is important to have equal numbers of male and female primary school teachers.

And 47 per cent said it was important to ensure children had both male and female role models, while a third said equal numbers would give children a chance to mix with adults of both sexes, particularly because so many youngsters come from single-parent families.

As it turns out, a mere 15 per cent of teaching staff in primary schools are male, according to TDA figures, although there has been a 20 per cent rise in applications from men over the last five years.

TDA chief executive Graham Holley said: "Men are under-represented in primary schools and we are keen to improve the balance over time.

"This is not an educational issue; there is nothing wrong with the thousands of splendid women teachers who we are fortunate to have in our schools. But a well-balanced, diverse and representative workforce is of huge benefit to children socially and in their broader development."

Teachers set to revolt over SATs testing

The SATs tests for primary school children need to be scrapped immediately, according to large numbers of the public.

A staggering 10,000-plus people have now signed an online petition begging the Government to ditch them. Even teachers hate them and have been running a campaign to get rid of them by next year.

Some are even saying they will boycott the exams if they are still around.

The main criticism is that SATs force teachers to concentrate just on passing the test and completely ignore wider learning, which many see as just as important.

The SATs test results are used to compile the controversial league tables.

The National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Head Teachers have set up the campaign to get the tests scrapped.

And they have the backing of Michael Rosen, the former children's laureate.

He told NUT Teacher, a magazine for the teaching profession: "Abolish SATs – they're utterly useless and they drive children, teachers and parents nuts."

He added: "Exams should be treated with incredible caution by people in authority and they're not.

"They just think they're the best instrument they have for levering up standards. It's as if they don't look at the educational and emotional consequences."

Christine Blower is the general secretary of the NUT, and she is just as angry.

She said: "SATs are bad for education, bad for children, and bad for teachers. They encourage teaching to the test, a narrowing of the curriculum and the unfair and misleading system of league tables.

"Getting so many people signing our petition is a clear indication that we are not alone in our concern about the detrimental effects that SATs have on our education system."

And Mick Brookes, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, added: "Our members were very clear about what they wanted – a positive change to the assessment arrangements in Year Six that will result in schools being held to account for the broad sweep of achievements across the whole school.

"We are determined that this year top primary pupils will receive a broad and balanced curriculum, unhindered by the mind-numbing rehearsal of past SATs papers, and that league tables are either abolished or at the very least become an irrelevance."

The Government has already dropped the test for those aged 14 after marking errors brought the system to its knees last year.

And in May, the science test for 11-year-olds was scrapped, but the Government said it is reluctant to do away with the English and maths examinations because they do a lot to ensure a minimum standard.

The Department of Children, Schools and Familes said: "A boycott of statutory tests would be irresponsible, disruptive to pupils and would risk doing real damage to the standing of the profession.

"It is out of step with what parents want, not backed by other teaching unions, and ignores the findings of our expert group on assessment.

"We trust teachers' experience and professionalism – and ministers have made clear repeatedly that drilling with practice test papers is wrong. Excellent teaching throughout the year will improve pupils' reading, writing and maths skills and is the best preparation for tests."

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Huffkin is on the menu as schools back local produce

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

THE food served up in school canteens has come in for some strong words over the past few years, with claims about its lack of nutrition.

Even Jamie Oliver's school lunch menu came in for criticism, with some unhappy mothers caught outside a school fence taking fast-food lunch orders from pupils.

But that has not stopped Kent County Council for pushing on with the healthy option to try and to stave off the obesity time bomb in future generations.

Using local ingredients, it will be serving some Kent-lead menus in schools.

So, here's your starter for 10 – what is a Kentish huffkin?

Well it's not a starter; in fact it's more likely to be served as part of main course or dessert. It takes its name from a Kentish teacake and, depending on the ingredients, can be sweet or savoury.

The huffkin is one of the dishes being served up in schools across the county next week as part of the inaugural Kentish Food Week, which runs from September 28 to October 2.

Promotions

KCC has cooked up Kentish Food Week to celebrate local cuisine and produce.

Menus have been sent to Kent schools and the main meals include Kent-reared pork sausages with onions, Appledore chicken pie, and Oast quiche.

Tempting desserts include gypsy tart with Cox apple slices, apple and blackberry sponge, and not forgetting Kentish huffkin, served with a berry smoothie or milkshake.

Kentish Food Week falls during the second week of British Food Fortnight, which celebrates the diverse and delicious range of food that Britain produces with promotions and tastings in shops, all-British menus in pubs and restaurants, food and cookery lessons in schools and glorious food festivals.

And it's not just schools that can get a lesson in great Kentish food.

The menus are available from the Kent County Council website at www.kent.gov.uk, so families can download the recipes and cook the dishes at home.

Magazine So! outspoken it's making news

A TRENDY youth magazine written by Kent schoolchildren has become so successful it is going national.

It used to be called Oi! – as in 'outspoken individual' – but has changed its name to So! as it expands across the country. The new name stands for 'so outspoken'.

The magazine has highlighted important aspects of the Kent community for the last three years.

It ran to 40,000 copies and was stocked in schools and libraries all around the county.

The overwhelming popularity of Oi! has lead to its expansion, in three exciting ways.

Now it is going national and is due to be released in the Leeds and Bradford areas soon, followed by London, Birmingham and Oxford in the near future.

Magazine spokeswoman Madeleine White said the name change won't alter the format of the magazine that was created by local, talented young people. The magazine has also grown from 24 pages to 32 and there is a new website.

Madeleine said: "The website will be a secondary platform from which young people showcase their writing, artwork, photography or even just their views via commenting forums and blogs.

"Any work uploaded will also be considered for inclusion in the printed version of So!

"Not only will this be a fun and innovative way for young people to showcase their creative talent, they will also be give the opportunity to create a more serious personal profile, detailing not only their formal education and qualifications, but also their extra-curricular activities, interests and achievements.

"With well recognised journalists, such as Eve Pollard and large corporate companies such as Accenture already sitting on the editorial advisory board the website opens up a host of opportunities for young people both locally, and nationwide. The overall aim is to encourage a link between employers, media organisations and the British youth of today."

Schoolchildren Pass on Passion for 2012

AN 'Olympic' torch, designed by secondary school students will arrive by sea at the Prince of Wales pier in Dover and will be received by Josh Barrett, the grandson of John Barrett, the 1948 Olympic torch-bearer.

Just as it did for the 1948 London Games, it will then be passed to a relay team made up of young people from each of the 53 schools in Dover, Deal and Sandwich.

As the torch passes to each young athlete along the pier, it will mark the start of the Pass the Passion schools' torch relay.

During this week, the torch will then travel to each school which will celebrate its arrival and hold special activities before it moves to the next, finally reaching the Sandwich Guildhall on October 2, where a celebration will show how enthusiastic Kent is to have the chance to welcome the Olympic torch through Dover for London 2012.

Kent County County cabinet member for communities Cllr Mike Hill said: "It is quite a feat to carry a torch to every school in Dover, Deal and Sandwich, but there is a real enthusiasm for repeating this historic event and hopefully this will give residents the opportunity to enjoy a taste of the excitement to come around 2012."

The name Pass the Passion was created



by young people at a workshop held in Dover in April, 2008, and a specially commissioned song will be performed by the Pass the Passion choir at the event on October 2.

Dame Kelly to launch Kent School Games

THIS year's Kent School Games is being launched by double Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes.

Joining her on October 1 will be Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter and shadow minister for sport and the Olympics Hugh Robertson.

They will cheer on around 900 young people who will be helping to launch the Kent School Games 2010, with a series of activities being run at Hayesbrook Sports College, Bower Grove School and Allington Primary School. They have been chosen to represent the students at all the primary, secondary and special schools taking part in what is said to be the largest school sports event in Europe.

The games give more than 30,000 young people aged five to 16 the chance to compete in 38 different sports, including disability sports.

There are local heats running from October culminating in a series of finals events in July, 2010.

KCC cabinet member for communities Cllr Mike Hill said: "The first Kent School Games were a tremendous success and we want to make the next games bigger and better."

And Dame Kelly added: "It is so important



for young people to get involved in sport and the Kent School Games is a brilliant opportunity for so many to enjoy the experience of representing their area at such a major event.



Dover COLLEGE

co-educational school for children aged 3-18





DOVER COLLEGE is an independent day and boarding school for girls and boys aged 3 to 18 years old. The school is dynamic and small enough – 350 pupils – to provide a disciplined and caring environment with small class sizes giving pupils the opportunity to develop their confidence and individual talents within a friendly community.

Pupils benefit enormously from the excellent teaching they receive and the breadth of education on offer. They leave the school with qualifications, social skills and experience needed to face the future with confidence.

Most day pupils live within a 25-mile radius to Dover College and the dedicated transport service operates in the Ashford, Bridge, Deal, Folkestone, Hawkinge and Sandwich areas. Boarders come from further a field in the UK as well as Continental Europe and the rest of the world. This international dimension gives the pupils a taste of the "real" world and a high degree of tolerance and understanding in all year groups.

Pupils are taught essential traditional values such as courtesy, good behaviour, respect for themselves and others… skills which make a noticeable difference in a person's life.

INFANTS AND JUNIORS can enter the Pre-Reception class from the age of 3 or at any stage if a place is available. Being OFSTED registered enables parents to apply for the Early Years vouchers, a government scheme offering a number of free sessions each term before their children reach their 5th birthday. Pupils are taught the expected Literacy, Numeracy, ICT and Science, as well as a wide range of other subjects. Specialist teachers deliver Music lessons from Pre-Reception, French from Year 1 and Spanish from Year 5.

Infant and Junior pupils are integrated into Dover College, as appropriate, and take a full part in the life of the school on a regular basis. They benefit from having access to all facilities, including the Astroturf, Playing Fields, Sports Hall, ICT Centre, Music School and Dance Studio. The homemade healthy food served to all pupils in the 12th Century Harry Potter style Refectory is all part of the healthy ethos the school believes in. The hugely successful yearly inter-school cross country event where over 600 runners take part-in, each March, is proof of the commitment Dover College as a Charity involves the local community.

Most of the pupils choose to join the Senior School in Year 7 at the age of 11, and the excellent academic curriculum enables pupils to prepare for the Kent Test. This year, once again, most pupils who were successful gaining entry into a Grammar School elected to move up to year 7 in the Senior School.



THE SENIOR SCHOOL selects on the individual talents of each pupil. Entrance to the school is generally via the school's own scholarship trials and interview at 11+, Common Entrance at the age of 13 or on the strength of reports and public examinations. In order to stretch the brightest pupils and to support pupils who find academic work more challenging, subject teachers are well versed in the practice of differentiation. Extension work is frequently set for the capable academics and reinforcement work for those pupils who need it. Pupils can enter the school at any level and often achieve far better than their potential suggests on entry to Dover College.



THE SIXTH FORM has a highly flexible curriculum and pupils generally choose four subjects to study at AS level in the Lower Sixth Form and three at A2 level in the Upper Sixth Form. There are over 20 subjects to choose from, including a PE Btech equivalent to two A Levels. The broad-based provision of subjects is tailored to meet the needs and aspirations of the broad mix of pupils within the school.

A dedicated Careers Officer, based in the Learning Resource Centre, gives sound and sensible careers advice. 98% of pupils go on to Higher Education but when appropriate, pupils are encouraged to enter the world of employment, directly from school.

EXAM RESULTS AND UNIVERSITY DESTINATIONS: A level pupils achieved 98% pass rate with 54% A-B grades, achieving a great deal better than a number of local Grammar Schools. Universities attended include the London School of Economics, Edinburgh and Surrey to name but a few.

Extra Curricular Activities form an integral part of the life at Dover College. Designed to foster self-confidence and develop leadership skills, pupils excel in sport, music, drama and art. Yearly events such as drama performances and Cross Country races, where local primary schools are invited to take part, are popular with both Dover College pupils and the local children.

But why take my word for it? Go to their Open Morning on Saturday 27th November from 10am until 12.30pm and get to know the pupils whilst they show you around the school's lovely grounds and facilities.

For further details contact Mrs Gaëlle Degrange on 01304 244506 or email admissions@dovercollege.org.uk

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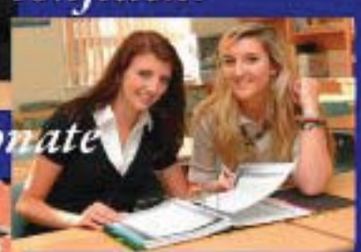
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New diploma qualification continues to divide opinion

THE new buzzword for qualifications in secondary education is the Diploma.

They come in three levels – Foundation, Higher and Advanced.

Staying in further education allows students to trade up to the next level in their chosen subjects.

Next year more subjects will be added to expand the qualification to around 17 areas of study.

This is the list released by the Government so far: business, administration and finance; construction and the built environment; creative and media; engineering; environmental and land-based studies; hair and beauty studies; hospitality; information technology; manufacturing and product design; public services; retail business; society; health and development; sport and active leisure; and travel and tourism.

Next year the expanded list will include humanities and social sciences, languages and international communication, and science.

The Diploma is for those aged between 14-19, and provides a mix of classrooms and hands-on experience.

Compulsory

Kent County Council cabinet member for children, families and education Cllr Sarah Hohler, said: "We believe one size does not fit all when it comes to education. Diplomas are one way of broadening the curriculum, but at this early stage, it is difficult to assess their success.

"As with any pilot project the diploma scheme is continually reviewed and adapted to suit the needs of young people and schools.

"The popularity of vocational studies, alongside the traditional subjects, is growing and for the past two years we have expanded our curriculum in subjects like retail, construction, engineering and manufacturing.

"All these new courses need to be backed up with excellent careers advice to help young people make informed decisions. We must also make sure employers in the county are encouraged to provide apprenticeships and high-quality work-based learning opportunities."

The Government said students can choose subject options they want to do which could be to do with a hobby, a career or study area they want to get into, and they can still take the compulsory subjects like English, maths and ICT.

Some ministers said they would like to see the diplomas replace all existing qualifications to streamline the system.

The scheme was launched last year with the Government predicting around 50,000 students would be on the courses around the UK. But in reality just 11,400 took them up.

This year there is another push to encourage youngsters to sign up.

They were introduced after many employers started to voice concerns students were leaving school without the skills to walk straight into a job.

Because the Diplomas encourage actual practical real-world experience it is hoped students will be better equipped for a career.

Former chief schools inspector Sir Mike Tomlinson came up with the idea for Diplomas.

He wanted the Foundation level to be equivalent to five GCSE grades D to G; a Higher to be the same as seven GCSEs grades A* to C; a Progression level equivalent to 2.5 A levels; and an Advanced level equivalent to 3.5 A levels.

The GCSE would fall away, since it made little sense to have a 'terminal examination' at 16 when, from 2013, the school-leaving age will rise to 18 for everyone.

Former education secretary Alan Johnson backed them too, saying they were the "missing link" between vocational and academic education. He said the nation had "lacked" this for years.

There are critics of the system. Some say the Diploma has created a two-tier system with the Diploma at the bottom for students who can't cope with more demanding courses.

The Liberal Democrats blasted them as an "expensive flop".

Their future now depends on how the universities view them plus, of course, whether enough employers will recognise them. There has been support from business, but critics believe more are needed to come out in complete favour. A levels are still seen as the gold standard by companies and universities, but that may change in years to come.

An Ofsted investigation was critical of the Diplomas for apparently separating boys and girls down traditional gender lines.

Christine Gilbert, Ofsted's chief inspector, said: "The introduction of the Diploma programmes is still at a relatively early stage… I hope others will learn from the good practice found in the report."

And Chris Keates, general secretary of the teachers' union NASUWT, added: "The fault lies with the way that functional skills are designed, not the quality of teaching and learning."

Iain Wright, minister for 14-19 reform, part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families, said: "We know young people have different interests and talents and they enjoy learning in different ways.

"Thanks to the introduction of these new Diploma subjects, pupils in Kent now have more choice than ever before when it comes to their education. Diplomas allow young people to apply their knowledge in practical, work-based and real-world situations which many students find engaging and relevant to their future.

"Whether pupils in Kent are thinking about university or employment once they've finished their course, the Diploma offers them a fantastic opportunity to develop the crucial skills and confidence that lead to success."

Attitudes

There is more backing from Kent businesses.

Jonathan Levy, boss of British Loose Leaf, which makes ring binders in Crayford, said: "Diploma students are learning in a completely new way, enabling them to make the link between classroom learning and the real world of work.

"These young people will have a career head start based on a more rounded education which includes the skills that employers value such as teamwork, communication and enterprise. Kent employers now have the opportunity to support the Diploma."

And in an open letter signed by 25 major employers around the UK, including Toyota, the RAF and British Gas, the companies said as thousands start their Diplomas: "We, as employers, welcome this extension of choice.

"In the Diploma, young people have the opportunity to take a qualification designed by employers and universities to provide the knowledge, skills and attitudes that young people need to give them a head start into their adult lives.

"In these dark economic days, it has never been more important to get the match right between the skills that employers want and those possessed by young people.

"The Diploma helps us make that connection, and we wish these first students every success in their studies."



Partnership gives young invaluable Connexions

KENT County Council and Connexions have signed a three-year deal to start in April next year that will provide support services for young people.

They said it comes as a time when young people need the best advice and support with their education and career choices.

As well as providing free impartial and confidential advice, guidance, support and personal development services, Connexions will also incorporate Kent Works.

This was launched to provide first-class work experience placements and other work-related learning opportunities for young people.

The new combined service will help 13 to 19-year-olds, and those up to 25 who have learning difficulties and disabilities, to succeed in education and training and start on the road to a successful career.

Connexions also provides advice and support on all sorts of issues such as training, housing, money, relationships and health, as well as providing information on volunteering, community projects, the arts, sport and other leisure activities.

KCC cabinet member for children, families and education Cllr Sarah Hohler said: "Our agreement with the Connexions Partnership Kent and Medway brings together all the best advice and support services that a young person could need. We are actively backing Kent people at this time and, for me, it is so important for this to start at a young age to give everyone the best possible start in life and every encouragement to succeed in their chosen career path."

And Connexions Kent and Medway chief executive Gordon Bernard, added: "We have operated a flourishing Connexions service in Kent for the past seven years and this new contract is great news for our service to Kent's young people. We know this will help Kent's young people to make the right decisions about their future pathways."

Over the past year, Connexions has worked with 125,000 young people in the county.

Connexions personal advisers are based in schools, colleges and other community venues. There are also 10 Connexions Access Points across Kent.

For more information phone 0800 432 0207 or visit www.connexionskentandmedway.co.uk.

'Diplomas allow young people to apply their knowledge in work-based and real-world situations'

Iain Wright, minister for 14-19 reform, part of the Department for Children, Schools and Families

Academy sponsors can bank their £2m entry fee

TO speed up the introduction of new academies the Government is planning to drop the £2 million entry fee for new sponsors.

Instead, Schools Secretary Ed Balls wants them to merely show they have the cash available.

He said: "In the early period of academies, the £2m commitment from sponsors was an important part of showing they were serious.

"Two years ago we removed that entry fee for universities, further education colleges and schools – and we've now had 55 universities and 28 further education come forward to sponsor academies.

"I don't think the money should be the first qualification to run a school. We will continue to encourage people to set up endowment funds when they sponsor a school. That will be one way of showing a commitment.

"There was a view of academies that we were basically setting up grant-maintained schools. I think that is a total misreading of what we're doing.



"It was never just about the freedoms schools get, but the injection of a different educational DNA and new leadership."

Teaching unions have long been against academies, which will hit the 200 mark when the latest stream of 67 of them across the country finally open. Four hundred is the general government target.

Chris Keates, head of the teaching union the NASUWT, said: "There is no evidence to demonstrate that academies do any better or worse than the generality of schools, or that handing over governance and management and previously public assets to sponsors makes any material difference to the standard of education."

And Christine Blower, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, added: "It's a sign of desperation in terms of the number of sponsors who are prepared to be involved in running schools – £2m just isn't there for the taking in these lean times.

"The changes Ed Balls has made are welcome, but they are also an admission that all the things they had in the first place weren't a good idea."

The academies in Kent according to the website of the Department for Children, Schools and Families include: Cornwallis Academy; South Maidstone Federation; Folkestone Academy; Leigh Technology Academy; Longfield Academy; Marlowe Academy; Marsh Academy; New Line Learning Academy and Spires Academy.

And the first of three new academies planned for Medway opened this month.

Strood Academy, which is sponsored by the University for the Creative Arts, is a co-educational secondary school specialising in maths, business and enterprise and replaces two comprehensives – Chapter School and Temple School.

A £30m new building to house the academy is planned for September, 2012.

Academies are all-abilities, state-funded schools, which are established and managed by private sponsors such as universities, businesses and faith communities.

Two new academies, Skinner Kent in Tunbridge Wells and The Isle of Sheppey Academy in Sheerness, opened on September 1. A consultation is underway for an academy in Sevenoaks to replace Bradbourne and Wildernesse schools, which closes in October.

Parents are urged to tread carefully in the selection 'mind-field'

BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

IT'S that time of year again and this month around 9,000 children will have taken the Kent 11-plus test.

Now the hard part starts, but the process has been made easier than in the past when parents could not select possible schools before the test result was known.

Thankfully that has now changed, but as independent education advisor Peter Read found, there is still a small 'mind-field' ahead, let alone a minefield.

We asked him to explain.

Mr Read said: "The results are due on October 19. Parents then have just three weeks until November 6 to choose four secondary schools, listed in preference order on the Secondary Common Application Form known as a SCAF, so early planning is important.

"Already some secondary schools have held open days and parents should visit all possible schools and ask about the chances of a successful application.

"If your child passes the Kent tests, you may name grammar schools only on your SCAF.

"If you are not eligible for any of these, you will probably be offered the nearest grammar school with a vacancy. Last year some West Kent parents were offered grammar school places in Folkestone many miles away, with some students facing round trips of around six hours.

"If your child has passed the 11-plus and you name grammar schools and a non-selective school, for example a church comprehensive school, you will be offered the highest school on your list for which you are eligible, whether or not it is a grammar school.

"Some non-selective schools last year still claimed falsely that parents needed to put the school first on the SCAF to secure a place.

"If your child has taken the 11-plus and not passed, you must include any grammar you wish to appeal to on the SCAF, but I recommend you include at least one non-selective school.

"Appeals will not be heard until the summer of Year Six. If your child has not taken the 11-plus, you can only apply for non-selective schools.

"After the closing date, each school draws up a list of eligible applicants in terms of priority according to their published oversubscription criteria.

"They are not told where you have listed them on the SCAF or which other schools you have applied to, so list schools exactly as you prefer them.

"There is no such thing as tactical order. There is no advantage in putting just one school on your list.

"I strongly recommend you apply online so you reliably receive results the day before they are delivered by post. Last year more than 30 per cent of Kent parents went online.

"On National Offer Day, March 1, 2010, your child will be allocated the highest preference school for which they are eligible.

"This means that some children could get their fourth choice ahead of others who listed it first if their claim is stronger.

"If you don't qualify for any school on the list, Kent County Council will offer a place at the nearest appropriate school with vacancies.

"This is a time when rumours about what to do swirl about the playground gates.

"If in doubt check it out, and my best wishes to every family going through what is undoubtedly an extremely stressful process.

"Remember, nearly 80 per cent of all families were offered their first choice school in March last year, a figure which will have been much higher after the appeals process was concluded."

For more information visit his website www.kentadvice.co.uk.

The volunteers tasked with making that tough decision

IF A parent does not get the school they want for their child, they can take the matter to appeal.

The issue will be settled by a panel made up of volunteers, who play a vital role in the education system.

Here, independent education advisor Peter Read, explains what is required.

He said: "Among the less publicised voluntary roles in the county is that of the Independent Appeal panellist. The overwhelming number of appeals are for school admissions, with some being for school exclusions.

"Last year KCC organised 2,672 admission appeal hearings for all types of school with one, Wilmington Grammar School for Boys, attracting 100 appeals, all heard by the same panel of three volunteers.

"Many other admission appeals were heard by panels organised by individual schools or independent organisations which specialise in this service. So who is an appeal panellist?

"For admissions, at least one of the three has to have experience in education, which can be as a current parent of a child at school, or having knowledge of educational conditions in the area, but is often represented by a retired teacher.

"At least one is a lay member, without personal experience in the management or provision of education in a school, although governors are permissible.

"In all cases, panel members must not have a connection with the school in question which might raise doubts about their impartiality.

"All panellists must be trained every two years on the regulations and procedures relating to "appeals.

"Some training equips panellists to hear appeals for all types of school, other approaches focus on particular types of school, of which there are many in Kent.

"I appear before some panels and have reports back on many other hearings.

"From my experience I consider that the vast majority of panellists are carrying out what can be a very difficult role judging between the needs of the school and those of the child.

"However, those panellists I talk to generally find this a satisfying role except where they anguish over difficult decisions for, however strong the case, there are occasions when there simply isn't room for a school to take in another child.

"Many parents emerge from an appeal and even if they lose are content that they have had a fair hearing.

"That is the measure of success for a panellist who has given up his or her time to ensure the system can operate, for without volunteers there would be no appeals.

"If you are interested in volunteering, I am sure KCC would be very happy to hear from you, telephone 01622 694358."

'This is a time when rumours about what to do swirl round school gates'

Independent education advisor Peter Reid

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Skills boost as we sign up to train our way out of recession

COLLEGES and universities are helping to beat the recession. The field of further education is one area benefiting from the current credit crunch by taking it on with inspired investment programmes.

The lifeblood for further education is the staff bringing fresh industry experience into the classroom and passing on their skills to the next generation.

And with jobs in short supply it may pay students to stay in a college classroom rather than going onto benefits. New figures show one in five youngsters aged between 16-24 are jobless – that is a whole generation across the UK, adding up to 947,000 people.

Clearly something needs to be done to help the young plus, of course, keeping doors open for up-and-coming teaching staff.

People who have considered teaching are putting those thoughts into action and it has never been easier for further education colleges to recruit first-class teaching staff.

Foundation

South Kent College principal, Monica Box, said: "Our core business is developing vocational skills. People know college is the place to be if they want to get marketable skills.

"We concentrate on providing students with the best learning environment for the workplace. In order to do that, it's vital our classes offer a realistic work experience in the college setting."

This is where government's initiatives for anyone wanting to retrain, at any age, or younger people who have their eyes firmly set on the world of work, are becoming a reality.

Mrs Box said: "For example, our catering students get a realistic idea of the pressure of working in a restaurant, the expectations of service, because they're feeding the rest of the college. They soon learn they can't afford to not have food ready when students come in for their breaks and lunches, because hungry students will let them know about it."

Canterbury Christ Church University is also building for success to beat the recession.

Since its foundation in 1962, the university has grown to almost 16,000 students on five campuses at Canterbury, Broadstairs, Folkestone, Medway and Tunbridge Wells.

It has been investing in projects around the county to improve and enhance its services and facilities for current and future students.

The new Augustine House in Canterbury is home to library and student support services.

Completed and opened in time for the new term, it has taken two years to build. There are cafés, roof terraces and space for exams, teaching, graduations, exhibitions, conferences and public events, free access to 200 laptops and is wireless throughout.

It is the university's largest investment in student and staff facilities and aims to boost the local economy by attracting new students.

Vice chancellor of the university, Professor Michael Wright, said: "We have been investing heavily in our students and academic programmes in recent years. Perhaps the most visible of these investments is Augustine House. The university works hard to be part of the community and Augustine House will not only serve our students and staff, but also make a stunning contribution to Canterbury."

Providers

At South Kent, training is vital. Mrs Box said: "I have seen at first-hand the way in which training has moved both individuals and companies into a better position.

"It hasn't always made it possible for them to beat all aspects of the downturn, but it has certainly created opportunities for some to diversify and for others to specialise.

"All in all it's helped to provide the kind of flexibility that prepares businesses and local people to deal with a changing economic environment."

Health care providers rely on South Kent College to bring their staff up to date with legislative requirements, and hundreds of people in the caring services have become qualified for the first time in their lives.

Mrs Box said: "We are proud of the part we have played in developing health care skills that are making a real difference to the quality of life of all those people who depend upon the caring services for their support."

South Kent College is now the only automotive technician accreditation centre in the south east of England, where the people insurance companies trust to repair cars damaged in accidents are verified as good enough to do the job.

All employers, whether in the private or public sector, are currently more careful about how they spend their money. Training is often not a low-cost item.

Mrs Box said: "We recognise that public funding is being spread more thinly across all services, from health to the Armed Forces, but there is evidence that if further education colleges provide people with the skills they need to achieve to give them qualifications, then they will pay that price."

South Kent College has the best success rate for learners on work-based Train to Gain programmes in Kent and Medway.

As the places on the programmes are fully taken up, the college is looking at ways of providing the best value, lowest cost options that will generate high results so it can continue to meet demand and serve established and emerging need, even when public funds are reduced.

And at Christchurch, more recession-beating moves are in the pipeline.

Investment

The university is raising vital funds for the St Gregory's Development Project; a groundbreaking initiative that will lead to the creation of the county's first-ever purpose-built centre for music.

The 350-seat concert auditorium will also host a suite of fully equipped rooms for teaching and rehearsals, and a music therapy room.

Investment in the future hasn't just been confined to the Canterbury campus. This year has also seen significant investment at the university's Medway campus, as part of the Universities at Medway partnership.

The new Cathedral Court provides six large seminar rooms together with spacious student areas and enhanced computing facilities.

A partnership with University of Greenwich also led to the creation of University Centre Folkestone. Opened two years ago in the Creative Quarter of the town, UCF's home is a beautifully refurbished glass works specialising in performing arts, business and IT, and fine art with digital media.

Thousands turn up to access all areas of new state-of-the-art £86 million campus

IT'S done. Years in the planning, and now the new MidKent College in Medway is open for business, with thousands turning out for the campus opening.

A staggering 3,500 were given a first look inside MidKent's new £86 million Medway Campus during a one-day open event held in August.

The celebratory event, called Access All Areas, featured campus tours, careers advice, department demonstrations and performances from bands and DJs.

Event organiser Craig Bennett said: "There was some pretty spectacular live entertainment. However, the event was not just about great music. It was about giving young people in Medway a chance to celebrate the opening of this fantastic new campus, take a look at the stunning facilities we have on offer, and find out about options for their future with the help of our impartial careers advisers."

Erin Nisbet, 16, was particularly eager to take a look inside the brand new buildings.

The former Rainham School for Girls student said: "I'll be coming here to study health and social care. I'm so impressed; it's huge and modern. I can't wait for the start of term."



Multi award-winning rapper Chipmunk, performed at the event.

The 18-year-old from Tottenham, sang a number of tracks including his hit Diamond Rings, and said: "If my being here makes young people want to come along to see the college and maybe even decide to continue into further education, then it's all good."

The state-of-the-art campus in Medway Road, Gillingham, replaces the old Horsted and City Way Centres in Chatham and Rochester, both of which closed at the end of July. The new site can accommodate almost 30 per cent more students than the previous two centres combined. Made up of three four-storey buildings linked by two transparent pavilions, the Medway campus provides training facilities in a wide range of subjects.

Medway campus principal, Sue McLeod said: "Students get first-class facilities coupled with the latest technology.

"Classrooms, workshops and study zones have been fitted out with new equipment and furniture, and dynamic learning and social zones offer students a modern and progressive campus environment within which to study and socialise."

The opening of the new campus marked the start of a period of modernisation for MidKent College.

Its Maidstone Campus at Oakwood Park – which has already had investment in its workshops, classrooms and learning resource centre – will undergo a further programme of improvement works from the start of this academic year.

To find out more about courses at MidKent College, call the course information line on 01634 402020 or visit the college website at www.midkent.ac.uk.



South Kent College - Open Days

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Advertisers Announcement

The New 14-19 Diplomas at Thanet College

The New 14-19 Diplomas at Thanet College

There has been a lot of press coverage and debate in the Education sector about the new Diplomas, and, some might say, a bewildering array of press releases, fliers and web site information designed to inform and educate the public at large about the Government's new qualification, the 14-19 Diploma.

At Thanet College we have piloted the new Advanced Diploma in Society, Health & Development (SHD, Level 3) and are about to go into the second year of delivering the new Diploma with a cohort of 14-16 year olds doing Hospitality, as well as the Post 16 Society Health & Development for the second year.

New lines for the Diploma are to be offered in September 2010 at the College, including IT, Business, Administration & Finance, Public Services, Creative & Media, Travel & Tourism, and Engineering. Further potential developments for 2011 include Construction & the Built Environment, Hair & Beauty Studies, Retail & Business, and Sport & Active Leisure. We have a College Diploma Co-ordinator, Bernie Scott who is currently course leader for the SHD Diploma, and as more lines come on board, the level of awareness and knowledge will, inevitably, grow and develop. As Bernie recalls:



"Overall, last year was very challenging but we think the new qualification is very good and well worth pursuing, the students will benefit from this kind of learning, and it is a varied and exciting course of study."

If you are planning to start a New Diploma or would like clear, straightforward advice please contact our Careers team on 01843 605043 or email careers@thanet.ac.uk. Look out for information about the Diploma in our brand new 2010-2011 course guide.

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Training for a new job may be simpler than you thought

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

ADULT education classes are about more than just making pottery and learning about flower arranging – they are giving the people of Kent a second chance to make a success of themselves.

And it also helps others to brush up on the skills needed to take their careers further, and reduce the growing number of unemployed.

While pots and flowers have their place, adult education courses have changed enormously in the last few years. Now students are just as likely to be able to pursue their ambitions by training for a new career and to get started on learning that will change their lives.

For women especially, adult education will provide the kind of environment that allows them to learn in a way that suits them best.

Although the number of house-husbands is on the rise, the main role of childrearing, and therefore taking time off from their career, is a reality that affects many women in their prime, Medway Council found.

The unitary authority said that when the time comes to return to a job, the workplace has often moved on. This can leave some women feeling unable to fit back in.

Some find a break for children alters their whole perspective and they may demand a change of career.

Before having her four children, Deb Simmonds had been a secretary. She discovered adult education when she needed to learn how to use Microsoft Windows to be proficient for work.

Deb, 47, began an evening class and gained the knowledge and skills she required.

She also became a parent helper at her children's school. One of her children has additional needs and she was motivated to learn more about how to support him and his learning.

Her enthusiasm to learn for both her own interest and to support her child led her to a few short training courses, gaining confidence and aspiration before she took the plunge and enrolled for an NVQ in supporting teaching and learning.

Skills

Deb, from Chatham, said: "Finishing the Level 2 and 3 qualifications have opened up a whole new avenue of opportunities. Training in a mixed group with people who were working at schools other than my own has meant I can compare my experiences with other people in the same boat as me, and get advice and support from others who were doing the same job."

Deb is surprised that more people don't go for adult education as a way of retraining for a new career.

She said: "Adult education is the perfect way to achieve your aspirations while also being able to do the other things in life that adults have to do, such as holding down a job and looking after your family. I now want to use these skills and become a teacher. I'm sharing what I learned during my course with other students as a tutor and assessor with Medway Adult and Community Learning Service."

She has also completed the initial certificate at Level 4 for teaching adults and hopes to achieve her diploma.

Adult education is still offering her the flexibility to continue training in the evening while keeping her day job.

Medway Adult and Community Learning Service (MACLS) sets it prices at rates that are affordable to single parents and those on lower wages.

There are a range of options to help, including spreading payments into manageable instalments or applying for additional financial support from the Learning and Skills Council which funds the vocational courses run by MACLS.

Anyone interested in reshaping their life or setting out on the pathway to a new career can phone Yvonne Smith on 01634 338435 or email yvonne.smith@medway.gov.uk for more information.





Work-related learning important in transition from school to job

ONE of the reasons children go to school is to prepare them for a life of working for a living.

So surely it makes sense to get youngsters used to a real-life working environment before they completely leave the classroom.

That's where MEPB comes in. The Medway Education Business Partnership can do most of the legwork to make that happen.

Toni Clarke (pictured right) is its chief executive, and here she explains how work-related learning operates.

She said: "Work-related learning is planned activity which uses the context of work to develop young people's skills, knowledge and understanding to prepare them for working life, and has been a key part of the curriculum since September, 2004, when it became a statutory entitlement for all students to experience work-related learning at Key Stage 4.

"In today's global market it has never been more important to ensure all our young people have the necessary skills and attributes to 'hit the ground running' when they join the workforce, be it from school, college or university. Our economy in the future depends on a strong and highly skilled workforce, and employers are increasingly committed to playing their part.

"EPBs across the country play a vital role in developing work-related learning.

"They work in partnership with schools, colleges, employers, work-based learning providers and all organisations that support young people particularly, but not exclusively, in the 14-19 age range.

"MEBP is the oldest EBP in the country, 20 years old on September 22, and although work-related learning only became an entitlement in 2004, we have been developing young people's employability skills for all this time.

"We support employers by helping them to get involved in work-related learning in ways that are right for each one. We establish and maintain partnerships between employers, schools, colleges and work-based learning providers – matching needs, interests, aspirations and opportunities.

"We are also involved in maintaining databases of employers and work-based learning providers and the work-related learning opportunities they are able to provide.

"Plus, we carry out health and safety checks and that other legal requirements are met, including insurance, and arranging and brokering work-related learning activities.

"These are numerous and include finding work experience placements with employers; carrying out health, safety and welfare visits; organising mock employer interviews, including interview preparation and interview feedback sessions; and organising curriculum-linked industry visits plus employer talks.

"There are also careers events along with in-school and in-college business and enterprise workshops, work simulations and problem-solving exercises – run by employers for small groups of students vetted, trained and briefed by volunteer mentors from local businesses.

"We also run projects that introduce young people, including those of primary school age, to business practices and help them acquire new skills while having fun.

"In addition there are professional development placements in industry, for teachers.

"Work-related learning experience is not just about offering work experience and there are many ways employers can be involved.

"For example, MEBP is presently involved in developing employer support for the new Diploma, which combines classroom learning with practical, hands-on experience including at least 10 days working with an employer preparing students in an innovative and exciting way for employment, further or higher education."

She said employers wishing to take part can call 01634 204 633.

building success

We opened our doors this week to the stunning new Augustine House Library and Student Service Centre in the heart of Canterbury. To find out more about Canterbury Christ Church University's continuing investment in students and the community visit **www.canterbury.ac.uk**



Canterbury Christ Church University

Alex, undergraduate, DipHE Mental Health Nursing and Efunwale, undergraduate, BSc (Hons) Accounting and Finance



Universities prepare to help out students during loan debacle

SENIOR officials at Kent's universities say they will do whatever they can to help students cope with any delays in the payment of fees and loans.

Around 150,000 people across the UK still have little idea what they are due to receive from the Student Loan Company.

Its chief executive Ralph Seymour-Jackson has already issued an apology for the delays, which it is claimed the Government knew would happen way back in January.

He has ordered more staff to be taken on, and extra telephone lines opened, to deal with the rush.

Mr Seymour-Jackson said: "This year, we have received record numbers of applications. We have increased the number of staff by 120 in order to deal quickly with the unprecedented numbers of calls and applications.

"In addition, we have opened up 50 per cent more telephone lines to deal with the tens of thousands of calls we are receiving every day."

He said the company is dealing with the biggest batch of first-year university students in the country's history and has approved 830,000 applications.

Many students have either set off for university or are due to within days. But many are still faced with not knowing what financial support they have.

Some will have to rely on hardship funds set up by some establishments, like the University of Kent. It said staff will see how its students are affected and take appropriate action.

A spokesman said: "If necessary, the Financial Aid Office at the university will provide emergency short-term loans to students who have not received their payment from the Student Loans Company.

"These loans are available from the university's access to learning fund emergency short-term loans or the Kent Emergency Student Loan.

■ BY **CHRIS MURPHY**

"Students have been made aware that the income office will not process accommodation fee payments until their loans from the Student Loans Company have been received.

"Students have also been advised that, should they believe they will experience financial difficulties beyond the receipt of their maintenance loan payments, they should contact the Kent Union Advice Centre to discuss an access to learning fund application."

And Canterbury Christ Church University also promised to do all it could to ensure students are affected as little as possible by the delays.

The University of Kent pointed out that course fees are paid directly to the institution, so that should not be a major issue for students, but the problems start when it comes to living expenses and accommodation.

Many may have to rely on parents forking out in the interim while the Student Loan Company battles to catch up with its backlog of applications.

Measures

Geoff Haworth, director of student support and guidance at Canterbury Christ Church University, said: "All universities are aware of the difficulties students are facing in receiving their loans or grants from Student Finance England, the company managing student financial support.

"Students at Canterbury Christ Church University have been advised of the steps they need to take to minimise the impact this situation may have on their personal finances.

"For example, by alerting the university if they are unable to pay for their university accommodation or speaking to their landlord about the situation if they are in privately rented housing.

"Importantly, they need to act to stop any direct debits and other payments from bouncing, as this will only make matters worse.

"In addition, Canterbury Christ Church is making arrangements to help those in greatest financial need, to ensure they remain solvent until all their student financial support from SFE is in place.

"The situation does appear to be easing daily, but we still anticipate some students will experience delays."

Universities UK represents vice chancellors in higher education. It said universities had responded sympathetically to the situation and most had measures in place to help cash-strapped students.

The Student Loans Company has blamed data processing problems for the delay and backlog that should be cleared by the end of October.

A spokesman said: "We are still processing thousands of applications every day.

"Any student who has applied on time should receive their funding on time.

"We are processing late applications as quickly as possible. We acknowledge this will be a worrying time for those affected."

But thanks to a Freedom of Information request from the Conservatives, it has been claimed a government minister knew there would be a delay back in January.

It was revealed they were present at a Loan Company board meeting when funding gaps was discussed.

At the meeting the SLC chief executive said poor service at peak times was accepted as a matter of course.

There have also been complaints that phone calls from worried students to the loan company don't get through.

The Tories say SLC board minutes as far back as 2008, show the company forecast 40 per cent of phone calls would go unanswered.

The issue is overseen by Student Finance England. It said students can use its online service to check on progress.

For more information, visit www.direct.gov.uk and click on education and learning.

Schools build programme is taking shape

DEVELOPER Kier Group has acquired a stake in a massive construction programme that will have a huge impact on education the county.

The company is now a key player in delivering Kent's first Building Schools for the Future Local Education Partnership.

The partnership was set up in October, 2008, to deliver Kent's Building Schools for the Future programme in Gravesham, Thanet and Swale.

Kier has joined the Local Education Partnership, as well as being a joint owner alongside Kent County Council, Building Schools for the Future Investments and the technology provider, Northgate Managed Services.

Kier was already in place as the principal constructor in the Local Education Partnership and is responsible for transforming five schools in the current works programme.

They will immediately start work on proposals for the second phase projects in Gravesham and Thanet, which will begin during 2010.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter, said: "Kier has a well-established reputation for their work in the education sector and their progress in Kent's current rebuilding programme is impressive. The new schools will give our young people first-class facilities that will transform education so it is fit for the 21st century."

And Kier general manager, Mervyn Greer, added: "The county's ambition to transform the educational experience of pupils and increase educational opportunities for all has led to the county setting exceptionally high standards for the new and remodelled schools. We are confident that by working in close partnership with KCC and the school community, the new schools will be an inspiration for generations to come."

Building Schools for the Future is the Government's capital investment programme to help transform education by rebuilding or renewing every secondary school in England. It is the largest single schools capital investment programme for more than 50 years.

The programme will cover a 15-year period involving more than 100 secondary and special schools and is worth around £1.8 billion.

In Kent the work is happening faster than expected with one special school already rebuilt – Ifield in Gravesend – and 10 more under way.

The conventional layout of a school, with classrooms, corridors, staffrooms and science labs, is being closely examined.

The result is that the new buildings will be more flexible, so computers are placed in open areas rather than smaller rooms, and corridors replaced with wider spaces and walls taken out to create open-plan places for class teaching.

New ways of thinking have also made a difference for communities to show how new and rebuilt schools will have a positive role to play in their local areas – for anyone involved in learning and their families.

The 10 schools already underway in Kent are Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs; Community College Whitstable; Dane Court Grammar School in Broadstairs; Herne Bay High School; King Ethelbert School in Birchington; Northfleet School for Girls; Northfleet Technology College; St George's CE Foundation School in Broadstairs; St John's Catholic Comprehensive School in Gravesend; and Thamesview School in Gravesend.

For information visit www.kent.gov.uk/bsf.

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3 nights first week and 4 nights second week

8am-4pm days
alternative weeks –
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Please ring for an information pack on 01634 579505

Brambles Care Home
We require a
HOUSEKEEPER
19.5 hours pw
to join our small team providing cleaning and kitchen support to our elderly residents
Contact Kevin or Sheila for a job description and application form.
WYE, ASHFORD - Tel: 01233 813217

COMMERCIAL WINDOW SURVEYOR

Attractive salary package, company car, pension and NVQ training
South & South East

You will be responsible for measuring properties for the installation of PVCU and Aluminium window and door products that are undergoing refurbishment. This role involves transferring surveyed data to a window design software package to create works instructions. You will be joining the surveying team who work across the South of England.
Attention to detail and enthusiasm are important.

Please apply by CV and covering letter to the Surveying Manager at 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP.
01843 850500 ron@piperwindows.co.uk

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Kent County Council

CAF Co-ordinator

Starting salary £30,219, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,724 per annum

Full-time

This is an exciting and innovative opportunity to manage and further develop the effective co-ordination of the Kent Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in Thanet.

You will be working with officers and practitioners across Kent County Council directorate and Kent Children's Trust Partner Agencies to ensure there is an effective process established in Thanet.

You will need substantial experience of leadership, management of change, staff supervision and a high level of political and organisational skill. Tact and diplomacy are pre-requisites along with a commitment to improving the outcomes for children and their families. You will be required to monitor and review the integrated systems and framework to ensure the needs identified through the CAF process can be addressed. As Thanet will benefit from extra resources to address the high level of need, you will also be able to develop the process to promote family assessments through the 'Think Family' pilot.

This post will be based at Clover House, Whitstable and will involve travelling to Thanet for meetings.

This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs
Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number CFE/09/0421.

Closing date: Midday 5th October 2009.

Interviews are expected to take place on the afternoons of 13th & 14th October 2009.



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If it's time for you to enjoy the rewards you deserve please write enclosing your CV, quoting reference SVS329/KOS, to Alice Forsyth, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or e-mail: human.resources@saga.co.uk Alternatively, please call 01303 774888 for an application form or download one from our website.

Closing date: 9 October 2009.

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Saxon Way Primary School
A Sure Start Children's Centre

Medway

Community Liaison Officer

(Early Years) (Job Ref: EDS/467)
Grade: C1 - Salary: £16,663 - £22,001 per annum
Hours: 37 hours per week - 52 weeks a year
Location: Saxon Way Primary School Church Path Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1SJ

Saxon Way Childrens Centre is experiencing an exciting time of growth and as a result we are now looking to recruit a full-time Community Liaison Officer to join our enthusiastic team. Working in the Gillingham area we are looking to appoint a man or a woman who is excited by new challenges and willing to implement new projects for local families with young children whilst working in partnership with a multitude of partner agencies.

Having experience of working with both parents/carers and children, you will be responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating Parent and Toddler Groups in settings across our reach area, as well as working in partnership with key statutory, voluntary and private agencies to create real positive change for our families.

You will have the skills to involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community. Children's Centres are hubs of information for local families, so knowledge of the local community will be essential.

An understanding of the roles of other professionals and partners will also be an advantage. This post also requires a level 3 Childcare/Early Years or comparable relevant qualification.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Margaret Windeatt, Community Services Manager on Tel: 01634 852320 or email office@saxon-way.medway.sch.uk

Closing Date: 2 October 2009
Interviews will be held: 14 October 2009

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008
Email: harrisonj@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

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Teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics

Salary negotiable according to experience and skills

Required for January 2010 a teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics. We are looking for an excellent practitioner to join this committed team of specialist teachers. The department is housed in a purpose-built Mathematics Suite. Examination results at both GCSE and A Level are outstanding and around 80 students take A level Mathematics each year.

A TLR payment is available for a suitable applicant, and the school would be willing to support progression to Advanced Skills Teacher status.

This is an excellent opportunity to join a thriving, over-subscribed selective school, designated 'outstanding' by OFSTED in November 2008. The School has recently achieved a Medway Council Gold Award in recognition of excellence in continuing professional development.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, many of whom go on to study Mathematics at university, then please contact the Headteacher's PA, Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check.

Closing date for applications - 7th October 2009

The John Townsend Trust
Royal School for Deaf Children Margate
Westgate College for Deaf People
Community Living Services
Monkshill Farm

We are currently recruiting for the following:

Speech and Language Therapist

Salary up to £37,000 p.a. pro rata.
Term Time Only

We provide education and care for young deaf people with additional needs including learning and communication difficulties. The post involves assessment, delivery of therapy within a multi-disciplinary team and in close collaboration with parents and carers.

British Sign Language training will be provided.

Terms and Conditions:
Permanent, Term Time only. Salary according to qualifications and experience.

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity, encouraging and welcoming applications from all groups and communities.

We expect all staff to be committed to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures. All positions are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, references, evidence of qualifications and a work history which can be fully checked.

For an application pack please contact Human Resources Department, telephone 01843 227561, email: hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk or download an application form from our website: www.rsdcm.org.uk

Closing Date: 2nd October 2009

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01303 817040

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

TEACHER

for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence as soon as possible

MPS + 2 SEN Points + TLR 2C £2,478 (with previous experience)

The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided.

Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 2nd October 2009
Interviews will take place on 6th October 2009

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236) stating the position for which you are applying

SOUTH BOROUGH

NURSERY ASSISTANT

Permanent Position. 37 hours per week, full-time. Grade: Kent Scheme 3.

South Borough Primary School, Maidstone, is seeking an experienced Nursery Assistant to work as part of our friendly and dynamic team. NVQ Level 3 in Early Years/Childcare is essential.

For details, contact the school on 01622 752161.

Closing date (applications): 2nd October 2009
Interviews: 7th October 2009
Start date: 9th November 2009 (or asap)

Saint George's

Church of England School
Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 Fax: 01474 533844

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

TEACHER OF SCIENCE

To cover Maternity Leave from November 2009 to June 2010
Main Pay Scale

We require a well-qualified, enthusiastic and innovative teacher of science who is committed to raising the achievement of our students.

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over-subscribed comprehensive school.

Contact us to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 16 October 2009

SENIOR SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

Pent Valley Technology College: 11-18 mixed 1400 pupils
Salary: Kent Scheme 7 (£20,262 – £23,053 pro-rata)
Term-time plus 10 days (40 weeks)
Hours: 37 hours per week

The successful candidate will be joining a Science Department which is well resourced and has a strong team of Specialist Teachers. The department resources are well-maintained and plentiful, all laboratories having their own smart boards and projectors. We aim to maintain high standards from our students at all times, by leading by example.

Your main responsibilities will include the preparation of practical lessons, record-keeping, ordering supplies, displaying class work, assisting the science teacher during lesson time, and where necessary, to help students with experiments.

You will need to be suitably qualified and particularly able to support the teaching of all Science topics right up to and including AS and A Level.

You should be able to demonstrate an in depth knowledge and understanding of laboratory techniques and previous school experience would be an advantage. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, therefore you will have to provide an Enhanced CRB disclosure for which the employer will pay.

For more information and an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley,
Pent Valley Technology College
Surrenden Road, Folkestone
Kent CT19 4ED
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Fax: 01303 279342
Closing Date:
Friday 2nd October 2009

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The John Townsend Trust
Royal School for Deaf Children Margate
Westgate College for Deaf People
Community Living Services
Monkshill Farm

We offer residential education and care for deaf children and young adults with additional needs and young people with communication difficulties.

This is an exciting time to join us as we expand our residential and care services team.

We require:

Registered Manager
£31,989 - £39,954

Terms and Conditions:

An experienced and confident Registered Manager for our Adult Care Homes. You must have NVQ Level 4 and RMA/Leadership and Management or equivalent.

Senior Practitioner
£25,005 - £31,445.57

An enthusiastic and committed practitioner to join our operational leadership team. This exciting new role will require you to promote best practice within our services.

Terms and Conditions.

We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity, encouraging and welcoming applications from all groups and communities. We expect all staff to be as committed as we are to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures. All positions are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, references, evidence of qualifications, and a fully checkable work history.

For an application pack please contact Human Resources Department, telephone 01843 227561, email: hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk or download an application form from our website: www.rsdcm.org.uk

Closing Date: Friday 2nd October 2009

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

THE QUEST SCHOOL

We wish to appoint a **qualified teacher** and **teaching assistant** to work at our specialist school for children with autism age 8-16 years.

Start date – January 2010

The right candidates will be dynamic and enthusiastic. Special needs experience preferred, a desire to make a difference in children's lives essential.

Please download an application form at www.questschool.co.uk and return to:

Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling, ME19 5NX. Tel: 01732 522700

Email: quest_school@btconnect.com

Closing date for applications: Friday 09th October

Quest School is an equal opportunities employer.

We are committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.



Marlowe Academy

Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB - Tele: 01843 593326
www.marloweacademy.co.uk

Vacancy within Catering Team for Second in Charge

This is an amazing opportunity for a talented and ambitious professional to join the academy. Experienced caterer required to support Catering Manager at The Marlowe Academy. First class kitchens producing 600 lunches daily plus a café providing light refreshments for students, staff and visitors.

Successful candidates should be able to demonstrate 3 years catering experience, understanding of high volume catering, qualified to NVQ level 2/City & Guilds 706/2 and supervisory experience. Educational setting experience not necessary.

Rewards: 40 hrs day time working; 25 days holiday per year to be taken outside of term time; uniform provided; opportunities to continue professional development; Salary £15,000 per annum. .

Please send a copy of your C.V. and letter of application to the school or email jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk

Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome.
Please contact Jennifer Spooner on direct telephone number 01843 598550 or email to address above.

We look forward to hearing from you.
The closing date for post: Friday 9th October 2009

HEAD TEACHER

We require and enthusiastic Head Teacher for our Independent School in Broadstairs. The school is registered for 6 children all with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

For full details please contact:
Stephen Payne/Dawn Day
stephen@stnicholaslodge.com
01843 232321

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d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
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Valence School

Student Support Assistants

Full time and part time hours available, Term Time Only.

This post involves shift work in supporting students with all their needs both within and outside the classroom.

£7.53 - £8.29 per hour

Night Security Caretaker

(37 hours per week Term Time Only)

Monday – Thursday – 39 weeks per year

£7.53 - £8.29 + 1/3 Night Enhancement between 10pm and 7am £2.51 - £2.63 per hour

Night Security Caretaker

(16 weekends per year)

27 hours per week Friday - Sunday

£7.53 - £8.29 + 1/3 Night Enhancement between 10pm and 7am £2.51 - £2.63 per hour

Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties.

Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check.

For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett.
Closing date for applications is Friday 9th October 2009.
Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN
Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046 e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

To advertise in this section

01303 817040



THE KING'S SCHOOL CANTERBURY

Chef

Required to work 40 hours per week, on a rota basis, all year round.

Minimum qualification required: City & Guilds 7061/2 or NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. Health and Hygiene Certificate an advantage.

The King's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau.

For an application form, please email the School's Personnel Department on recruitment@kings-bursary.co.uk or telephone on 01227 595655 (24 hour answerphone)

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 7th October 2009

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Accountancy

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Tunbridge Wells
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Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

Resource Assistant Animal Care and Land Based

Canterbury
Salary: £15,312 pro rata PA
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Resource Assistant Animal Care & Land Based 04/98 18.5 hours per week, salary starting at £15,312 pro rata per annum. The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 04/98
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care and Land Based

Canterbury
Salary: £19,248 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Trainer Demonstrator Animal Care and Land Based TD13 18.5 hours per week, salary starting at £19,248 pro rata per annum. The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme. CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: TD13
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Catering Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: £12,537 pro rata
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Catering Assistant 08/141 25 hrs per week, 36 weeks term time. Salary £12,537 pro rata per annum (fixed point) The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/141
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Chef

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 5th October 2009
Required to work 40 hours per week, on a rota basis, all year round. Minimum qualification required; City & Guilds 7061/2 or NVQ Level 2 or equivalent. Health and Hygiene Certificate an advantage. The King's School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Criminal Records Bureau. For an application form, please email the School's Personnel Department on recruitment@kings-bursary.co.uk or telephone on 01227 595655 (24 hour answerphone). Closing date for receipt of completed application forms : 5th October 2009.
To apply/more information:
Kings School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 595655
Email recruitment@kings-bursary.co.uk

Catering Team Second in Charge

Ramsgate
Salary: £15,000 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 9th October 2009
Stirling Way, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6NB - Tele: 01843 593326 www.marloweacademy.co.uk Vacancy within Catering Team for Second in Charge This is an amazing opportunity for a talented and ambitious professional to join the academy. Experienced caterer required to support Catering Manager at The Marlowe Academy. First class kitchens producing 600 lunches daily plus a café providing light refreshments for students, staff and visitors. Successful candidates should be able to demonstrate 3 years catering experience, understanding of high volume catering, qualified to NVQ level 2/City & Guilds 706/2 and supervisory experience. Educational setting experience not necessary. Rewards: 40 hrs day time working; 25 days holiday per year to be taken outside of term time; uniform provided; opportunities to continue professional development; Salary £15,000 per annum. Please send a copy of your C.V. and letter of application to the school or email jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk Enquiries or visits to the Academy are welcome. Please contact Jennifer Spooner on direct telephone number 01843 598550 or email to address above. We look forward to hearing from you. The closing date for post: Friday 9th October 2009
To apply/more information:
Marlowe Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 598550
Email jenniferspooner@marloweacademy.co.uk

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To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Child Care

Senior Practitioner

Margate
Salary: £25,005 - £31,445.57
Closing Date: Friday 2nd October 2009
We offer residential education and care for deaf children and young adults with additional needs and young people with communication difficulties.This is an exciting time to join us as we expand our residential and care services team. We require: Registered Manager £31,989 - £39,954 An experienced and confident Registered Manager for our Adult Care Homes. You must have NVQ Level 4 and RMA/Leadership and Management or equivalent. Senior Practitioner £25,005 - £31,445.57 An enthusiastic and committed practitioner to join our operational leadership team.This exciting new role will require you to promote best practice within our services. Terms and Conditions. We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity, encouraging and welcoming applications from all groups and communities.We expect all staff to be as committed as we are to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures. All positions are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, references, evidence of qualifications, and a fully checkable work history. For an application pack please contact Human Resources Department, telephone 01843 227561, email: hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk or download an application form from our website: www.rsdcm.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Royal School for Deaf Children
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 227561
Email hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk

Foster Carers

Kent
Salary: TBA
Make a difference -Be important in the life of a child - Foster a child • Looking for a new challenge? • Good career prospects • Excellent training and support • Use your skills to make a difference as part of a professional team • Have you considered becoming a therapeutic Foster Carer? For details and financial package call 01795 830006 or visit www.ktcc.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Kaleidoscope
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 830006
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

CPCS HOIST and FORKLIFT

Kent
Salary: TBA
CPCS HOIST & FORKLIFT DRIVERS, CSCS LABOURERS CT10 020 8469 3456
reception@sitemasters.plc.uk
To apply/more information:
Site Masters Plc
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 020 8469 3456
Email smp@sitemasters.plc.uk

LABOURERS

Kent
Salary: TBA
CPCS HOIST & FORKLIFT DRIVERS, CSCS LABOURERS CT10 020 8469 3456
smp@sitemasters.plc.uk
To apply/more information:
Site Masters Plc
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 020 8469 3456
Email smp@sitemasters.plc.uk

COMMERCIAL WINDOW SURVEYOR

Kent
Salary: TBA
COMMERCIAL WINDOW SURVEYOR Attractive salary package, company car, pension and NVQ training South & South East You will be responsible for measuring properties for the installation of PVCU and Aluminium window and door products that are undergoing refurbishment.This role involves transferring surveyed data to a window design software package to create works instructions. You will be joining the surveying team who work across the South of England. Attention to detail and enthusiasm are important. Please apply by CV and covering letter to the Surveying Manager at 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP. 01843 850500 ron@piperwindows.co.uk We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.
To apply/more information:
Piper Windows
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 850500
Email ron@piperwindows.co.uk

Domestic

Housekeeper

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Brambles Care Home We require a Housekeeper 19.5 hrs pw. To join our small team providing cleaning and kitchen support to our elderly residents. Contact Kevin or Sheila for a job description and application form. WYE, ASHFORD.Tel: 01233 813217
To apply/more information:
Brambles Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 813217
Email info@bramblescare.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

English Language and Literature Teacher

Maidstone
Salary: £120 per day negotiable
An 11 to 18 co-educational High School in the Mid Kent area, which is high performing, popular and oversubscribed is looking for a dedicated and enthusiastic English teacher who strives to help children achieve academic goals as well as shaping them to succeed in today's ever changing technological world. The schools extensive re-build programme was completed in 2007 and there has been a significant improvement in examination results at all levels. Applicants must be qualified teachers and have recent experience working in a classroom setting. To apply please contact Britny Goulet at 01732 373 340 or britny.goulet@timeplan.net.
To apply/more information:
Britny Goulet
Timeplan Education Group
Quoting Job Ref: 09-090910009
Tel: 01732 373 340
Email britny.goulet@timeplan.net

English Language and Literature Teacher

Maidstone
Salary: £120 per day negotiable
A Mid Kent Specialist Sports College of average size is looking for a committed and confident English teacher. The school is a popular first choice with parents and has a very positive ethos and strong core values. Applicants must be qualified teachers and have recent experience working in a classroom setting. To apply please contact Britny Goulet at 01732 373 340 or britny.goulet@timeplan.net.
To apply/more information:
Britny Goulet
Timeplan Education Group
Quoting Job Ref: 09-090910010
Tel: 01732 373 340
Email britny.goulet@timeplan.net

Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties

Medway
Salary: See Below
Closing Date: 2nd October 2009
Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated. We are currently looking for a Teacher for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties to commence as soon as possible MPS + 2 SEN Points + TLR 2C £2,478 (with previous experience) The school is located in pleasant surroundings and we have educational resources of enviable proportions. This post would suit newly qualified teachers or those wishing to gain further experience of SEN. Comprehensive induction and training will be provided. Telephone enquiries and informal visits to the school welcomed This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. Interviews will take place on 6th October 2009 For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 3SP. (Tel: 01634 338236) stating the position for which you are applying.
To apply/more information:
Abbey Court School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: : 01634 338236
Email applications @jobsforkent.co.uk

Head of Faculty Higher Education

Canterbury
Salary: £42,760 pa
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. 37 hours per week The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/112
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications @jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer ICT

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon
Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success. Lecturer ICT 09/50 9.25 hours per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum. The closing date for the above post is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon. For an information pack please visit www.canterbury college.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Generous Holiday Allowance • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Close to Town Centre CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/50
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications @jobsforkent.co.uk

Learning Support Facilitator

Canterbury
Salary: £17,168 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Learning Support Facilitator CS2 18.5 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £17,168 pro rata per annum. The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: CS2
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications @jobsforkent.co.uk

Learning Support Facilitator

Canterbury
Salary: £17,168 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Learning Support Facilitator 08/104 37 hrs per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £17,168 pro rata per annum. The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterbury college.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: TD12
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Phsyics/Maths

Canterbury
Salary: £19,248 pro rata PA
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Trainer Demonstrator Physics/Maths TD17 27.75 hours per week, salary starting at £19,248 pro rata per annum The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterbury college.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: TD17
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Higher Education Moving Image Production

Canterbury
Salary: £19,248 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Trainer Demonstrator Higher Education Moving Image Production TD12 18.5 hours per week, salary starting at £19,248 pro rata per annum The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/DN
Tel: 01227 811282

Supply Lecturer Art History

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Supply Lecturer Art History S/AH Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/AH
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturer Dental Nursing

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Supply Lecturer Dental Nursing S/DN Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum.The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/DN
Tel: 01227 811282

Supply Lecturers Animal Care, Land Based and Veterinary Nursing

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Supply Lecturers Animal Care, Land Based & Veterinary Nursing S/ALV Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/ALV
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

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Lecturer Electrical Installation

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 PA
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Lecturer Electrical Installation 09/26 37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum.The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/26
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Temporary Lecturer Animcal Care and Veterinary Nursing

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Temporary Lecturer Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing 08/42 37 hours per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 per annum. Fixed term post to cover maternity leave not to exceed one year The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/42
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Hospitality and Catering

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Lecturer Hospitality and Catering 05/84 37 hrs per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 per annum. The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 05/84
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Music Technology

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Lecturer Music Technology 01/60A 18.5 hrs per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum. The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 01/60A
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer IT and Computing

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn.Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Lecturer IT and Computing L24 37 hrs per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 per annum. Fixed term post ending 31 December 2012 The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: L24
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Lecturer Public Services

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum **Closing Date:** Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noonCanterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Lecturer Public Services 06/93 18.5 hrs per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 06/93
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Vacancies filled fast online with
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Independent Form F Assessors

Kent
Salary: £1,600 per Assesment Independent Form F Assessors £1600 per Assessment We are keen to recruit additional Independent Assessors that can undertake Competency based Form F Assessments across Kent, London, Surrey, Essex and Hertfordshire. For an information pack and application form, please telephone 0844 8001941 or email: enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk quoting the position you are interested in. We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.
To apply/more information:
Fostercare UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 8001941
Email enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk

HEAD TEACHER

Broadstairs
Salary: TBA
HEAD TEACHER We require and enthusiastic Head Teacher for our Independent School in Broadstairs. The school is registered for 6 children all with emotional and behavioural difficulties. For full details please contact: Stephen Payne/Dawn Day stephen@stnicholaslodge.com 01843 232321
To apply/more information:
St Nicholas Lodge UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 232321
Email stephen@stnicholaslodge.com

NURSERY ASSISTANT

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
NURSERY ASSISTANT Permanent Position. 37 hours per week, full-time. Grade: Kent Scheme 3. South Borough Primary School, Maidstone, is seeking an experienced Nursery Assistant to work as part of our friendly and dynamic team. NVQ Level 3 in Early Years/Childcare is essential. For details, contact the school on 01622 752161. Closing date (applications): 2nd October 2009 Interviews: 7th October 2009 Start date: 9th November 2009 (or asap)
To apply/more information:
South Borough Primary School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 752161

Student Support Assistants

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: £7.53 - £8.29 per hour
Closing Date: Friday 9th October 2009
Student Support Assistants Full time and part time hours available, Term Time Only. This post involves shift work in supporting students with all their needs both within and outside the classroom. £7.53 - £8.29 per hour Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties. Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check. For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett. Closing date for applications is Friday 9th October 2009. Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046 e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
Valence School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07887 727182
Email vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

Night Security Caretaker

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: £7.53 - £8.29
Closing Date: Friday 9th October 2009
Night Security Caretaker (16 weekends per year) 27 hours per week Friday - Sunday £7.53 - £8.29 + 1/3 Night Enhancement between 10pm and 7am £2.51 - £2.63 per hour Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties. Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check. For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett. Closing date for applications is Friday 9th October 2009. Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046 e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
Valence School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07887 727182
Email vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

Night Security Caretaker

Tonbridge
Salary: £7.53 - £8.29
Closing Date: £7.53 - £8.29 Night Security Caretaker (37 hours per week Term Time Only) Monday – Thursday – 39 weeks per year £7.53 - £8.29 + 1/3 Night Enhancement between 10pm and 7am £2.51 - £2.63 per hour Valence School is a KCC all age residential school for children and young people with physical disabilities, complex medical needs and associated learning and communication difficulties. Valence School is committed to safeguarding and promoting every student's welfare. We expect all staff to share our commitment. The successful applicants will require an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Check. For further information and an application form, please contact Lee-Anne Fossett. Closing date for applications is Friday 9th October 2009. Valence School, Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN Tel:- 07887 727182 Fax: 01959-565046 e-mail: vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk
To apply/more information:
Valence School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07887 727182
Email vacancies@valence.kent.sch.uk

Part-time Lecturer in Photography and Graphics

Tonbridge
Salary: £11,880 - £16,333
Closing Date: 12noon on 1st October 2009
Help create an inspiring future Part-time Lecturer in Photography and Graphics 0.5fte, 18.5hrs £11,880 - £16,333 Tonbridge You could be a photographer or graphic designer, or teaching these subjects in a school or college. Either way, there could be a bright and stimulating future for you at West Kent College. Teaching across a wide range of courses from Level 1 to 3, you will join a highly regarded team teaching talented, well motivated students. Our multi-million pound redevelopment also means you will have some of the South East's most modern, well-equipped design facilities. We will provide training towards a professional qualification where necessary, however a natural communicator with a broad knowledge of and enthusiasm for digital photography and graphic design is required. In return, you can expect excellent benefits including generous annual leave, final salary pension, flexible working options, private health plan, on-site nursery and more. To find out more, view our full list of opportunities and apply online, visit www.wkc.ac.uk Alternatively call 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk Please quote ref: KOS10 Closing date: 12noon on 1st October 2009
To apply/more information:
West Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: KOS10
Tel: 01732 376511
Email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Speech and Language Therapist

Margate
Salary: £37,000 p.a. pro rata
Closing Date: 2nd October 2009
We are currently recruiting for the following: Speech and Language Therapist Salary up to £37,000 p.a. pro rata. Term Time Only. We provide education and care for young deaf people with additional needs including learning and communication difficulties. The post involves assessment, delivery of therapy within a multi-disciplinary team and in close collaboration with parents and carers. British Sign Language training will be provided. Terms and Conditions: Permanent, Term Time only. Salary according to qualifications and experience. We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity, encouraging and welcoming applications from all groups and communities. We expect all staff to be committed to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures. All positions are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, references, evidence of qualifications and a work history which can be fully checked. For an application pack please contact Human Resources Department, telephone 01843 227561, email: hr@royalschool fordeaf.kent.sch.uk or download an application form from our website: www.rsdcm.org.uk
Closing Date: 2nd October 2009
To apply/more information:
Royal School for Deaf Children
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 227561
Email hr@royalschool fordeaf.kent.sch.uk

Registered Manager

Margate
Salary: £31,989 - £39,954
Closing Date: Friday 2nd October 2009
We offer residential education and care for deaf children and young adults with additional needs and young people with communication difficulties. This is an exciting time to join us as we expand our residential and care services team. We require: Registered Manager £31,989 - £39,954 An experienced and confident Registered Manager for our Adult Care Homes. You must have NVQ Level 4 and RMA/Leadership and Management or equivalent. Senior Practitioner £25,005 - £31,445.57 An enthusiastic and committed practitioner to join our operational leadership team. This exciting new role will require you to promote best practice within our services. Terms and Conditions. We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity, encouraging and welcoming applications from all groups and communities. We expect all staff to be as committed as we are to our Child and Adult Protection policies and procedures. All positions are subject to an enhanced Criminal Records Bureau check, references, evidence of qualifications, and a fully checkable work history. For an application pack please contact Human Resources Department, telephone 01843 227561, email: hr@royalschoolfordeaf.kent.sch.uk or download an application form from our website: www.rsdcm.org.uk **Closing Date:** Friday 2nd October 2009
To apply/more information:
Royal School for Deaf Children
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 227561
Email hr@royalschool fordeaf.kent.sch.uk

ICT Helpdesk Technician

Aylesford
Salary: Kent Scheme 4
Closing Date: 02/10/2009
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

TEACHER OF SCIENCE

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 16 October 2009
Saint George's of England School Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS Tel: 01474 533082 Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College 11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School TEACHER OF SCIENCE To cover Maternity Leave from November 2009 to June 2010 Main Pay Scale We require a well-qualified, enthusiastic and innovative teacher of science who is committed to raising the achievement of our students. Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over - subscribed comprehensive school. Contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk Closing Date : 16 October 2009
To apply/more information:
St George's CoE School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Qualified Teacher

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 09th October THE QUEST SCHOOL We wish to appoint a qualified teacher and teaching assistant to work at our specialist school for children with autism age 8-16 years. Start date – January 2010 The right candidates will be dynamic and enthusiastic. Special needs experience preferred, a desire to make a difference in children's lives essential. Please download an application form at www.questschool.co.uk and return to: Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling, ME19 5NX. Tel: 01732 522700 Email: quest_school@btconnect.com Closing date for applications: Friday 09th October Quest School is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.
To apply/more information:
Quest School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 522700
Email quest_school@btconnect.com

Teaching Assistant

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 09th October THE QUEST SCHOOL We wish to appoint a qualified teacher and teaching assistant to work at our specialist school for children with autism age 8-16 years. Start date – January 2010 The right candidates will be dynamic and enthusiastic. Special needs experience preferred, a desire to make a difference in children's lives essential. Please download an application form at www.questschool.co.uk and return to: Quest School, The Old Stables, Church Farm, Church Rd, Offham, West Malling, ME19 5NX. Tel: 01732 522700 Email: quest_school@btconnect.com Closing date for applications: Friday 09th October Quest School is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to promoting and safeguarding the welfare of children.
To apply/more information:
Quest School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 522700
Email quest_school@btconnect.com

Teacher of GCSE and A Level Mathematics

Rochester
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 7th October 2009
To apply/more information:
Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 844008
Email harrisonj@sir josephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

SENIOR SCIENCE TECHNICIAN

Folkestone
Salary: £20,262 – £23,053 prorata
Closing Date: Friday 2nd October 2009
To apply/more information:
Pent Vally Tech
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Email samantha.spratley@ pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

Estate Agency, Property

Experienced and Trainee Estate Agents

Kent
Salary: TBA
Experienced and Trainee Estate Agents Due to a huge increase in business in 2009 we are now looking to expand our sales team in Kent. If you are a high calibre individual with a 'cando' attitude, good communication skills and of smart appearance then contact us to find out more about our structured career path, extensive training and our exciting working environment. Please email your CV to: sarah.mcglinchey@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk Bairstow Eves Countrywide is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Countrywide Residential Lettings
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email sarah.mcglinchey@bairstowevescountrywide.co.uk

HR, Recruitment

HR Staff Development Administrator

Canterbury
Salary: £15,312 PA
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. HR Staff Development Administrator 09/60 37 hrs per week, salary starting at £15,312 per annum The closing date for the above posts is Monday 28th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone).
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/60
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Leisure, Tourism, Travel

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Margate
Salary: £31,250 P/T (£62.5K FTE)
Closing Date: 2 October 2009
DREAMLAND, MARGATE The Dreamland Trust has secured funding to commence work on the development of detailed proposals for a unique eight-acre tourist attraction. Phase One of the project, worth £12.4m, will create the world's first amusement park to solely feature thrilling historic rides and will be centred on the Grade II-listed Scenic Railway roller coaster. The second phase will involve the restoration of the Grade II*-listed Dreamland Cinema building as a multi-purpose entertainment venue, creating a national centre for seaside heritage, popular culture and street style. We are now recruiting a core team to make this exciting concept a reality. PROJECT DIRECTOR £31,250 P/T (£62.5K FTE) The Project Director will be the public face of Dreamland Margate, overseeing a small team, including a Project Manager. The successful candidate will need to be enthusiastic about popular culture and seaside heritage. They will have to show evidence of successfully delivering complex capital projects, fundraising, managing partnerships and have the presence, flair and people skills to maintain progress towards meeting tight deadlines. They will have high-level communication and presentational skills and will know how to allocate their time and delegate intelligently. Closing date: 2 October 2009. For details of how to apply for all these posts visit www.dreamlandmargate.com
To apply/more information:
Dreamland Trust (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Margate
Salary: £28,000pa
DREAMLAND, MARGATE The Dreamland Trust has secured funding to commence work on the development of detailed proposals for a unique eight-acre tourist attraction. Phase One of the project, worth £12.4m, will create the world's first amusement park to solely feature thrilling historic rides and will be centred on the Grade II-listed Scenic Railway roller coaster. The second phase will involve the restoration of the Grade II*-listed Dreamland Cinema building as a multi-purpose entertainment venue, creating a national centre for seaside heritage, popular culture and street style. We are now recruiting a core team to make this exciting concept a reality. AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER £28,000pa The Audience Development Officer is a curator, organiser and the public liaison point for the project, organising exhibitions that act as the basis for audience development. The successful candidate will have a degree in art, education or a related subject, experience of curatorial duties and managing and creating publicity. The post-holder must possess a knowledge of, and passion for, seaside culture and post-War popular music and fashion. Closing date: 19 October 2009. For details of how to apply for all these posts visit www.dreamlandmargate.com
To apply/more information:
Dreamland Trust (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

PROJECT ARCHIVIST

Margate
Salary: £22,000pa
Closing Date: 19 October 2009
DREAMLAND, MARGATE The Dreamland Trust has secured funding to commence work on the development of detailed proposals for a unique eight-acre tourist attraction. Phase One of the project, worth £12.4m, will create the world's first amusement park to solely feature thrilling historic rides and will be centred on the Grade II-listed Scenic Railway roller coaster. The second phase will involve the restoration of the

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Grade II*-listed Dreamland Cinema building as a multi-purpose entertainment venue, creating a national centre for seaside heritage, popular culture and street style.We are now recruiting a core team to make this exciting concept a reality. PROJECT ARCHIVIST £22,000pa (1 Year Fixed-Term Contract) This is an exciting opportunity for an enthusiastic archivist to research, collate and disseminate historical information relating to the Dreamland site and seaside culture, specifically in Margate, as part of the development of the Dreamland project. Please note this post will require some travel. Closing date: 19 October 2009. For details of how to apply for all these posts visit www.dreamlandmargate.com
To apply/more information:
Dreamland Trust (The)
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Supply Lecturers Hair

Canterbury
Salary: £19,344
Closing Date: Monday 28 September 2009 at 12 noon Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. Supply Lecturers Hair S/Hair Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum For an information pack please visit www.canterbury college.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies CALL 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)
To apply/more information:
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/Hair
Tel: 01227 811282
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk.

Qualified Stylists and Beauticians

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
Qualified Stylists and Beauticians Required on a self-employed basis Rent a chair/room For more information please call 01843 592027 or 07792 971116
To apply/more information:
Marcello's
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 592027
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Taxi Drivers

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
Full & part time taxi drivers required. www.a2cabs.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Elaine
A2 Cabs Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 431500
Email elaine@a2cabs.co.uk

Motorcycle Sales Person

Kent
Salary: TBA
The successful candidate will have a proven sales track record. Must be able to demonstrate a full knowledge of the sales process, both pre and post transaction. Experience with motorcycles is not necessary as training will be given. This is a full time position, 5 days a week including Saturday. Applicants must apply in writing enclosing a CV to Nick Young nick@jwg.co.uk or telephone
0844 811 9570
To apply/more information:
JW Groombridge Motorcycles Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 811 9570
Email nick@jwg.co.uk

HGV 1-2 and 7.5T DRIVERS

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
HGV 1-2 & 7.5T DRIVERS WANTED URGENT ONGOING CONTRACT - NIGHTS & WEEKENDS - MAIDSTONE AREA OTHER WORK AVAILABLE IN ESSEX & KENT AREA TOO!!! PLEASE CALL - 0208 517 8165 BETWEEN 9am - 5pm AND ASK FOR COLIN OR SENAD Email: driving@localstaffhire.co.uk LSH DRIVING DIVISION AGENCY.
To apply/more information:
Local Staff Hire
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 517 8165
Email driving@localstaffhire.co.uk

Not for profit, Charities

Weekend Dining Room Assistant(s)

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 2nd October 2009 Weekend Dining Room Assistant(s) required Saturday/Sunday. To work 8.00am - 2pm. 4pm - 7pm. No experience necessary as full training will be provided. For an application form and job description please contact us on 01892 531138 during office hours.
To apply/more information:
Leonard Cheshire Disability
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 531138
Email sue.french@lcdisability.org

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Senior Social Worker

Tonbridge
Salary: £32,600 to £36,800
Closing Date: Friday 9th October 2009
Senior Social Worker Tonbridge Office Credo Care is a specialist fostering service for children with disabilities rated "Outstanding" by Ofsted. We need a Senior Practitioner Social Worker to provide intensive support to Foster Carers in North West Kent and South London. The duties also involve recruitment, assessment and training of Foster Carers and a unique opportunity to work with our autism specific service Accredited by the National Autistic Society. GSCC registration and a DipSW or equivalent with at least 2 years experience within a child care setting required. Salary range £32,600 to £36,800 plus company car. Contact Greg Nicholls or Roy Hipkiss for an application pack on 01797 322226 or email: r.hipkiss@credocare.co.uk www.credocare.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Credo Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01797 322226
Email r.hipkiss@credocare.co.uk

Supervising Social Worker

London
Salary: £28 - £30k
Supervising Social Worker SOUTH LONDON BASED Salary range - £28 - £30k (+ Benefits) p/t position As a qualified Social Worker, ideally with experience in fostering, we want the carers and children in care to benefit from your enthusiasm and creativity. Your commitment will be to improve outcomes for children and young people through the management and development of exceptional foster carers in South London and Surrey. On top of an excellent salary we offer a range of benefits including 25 days paid leave, the opportunity to 'work from home', career progression and a personal training account. Your role will involve regular travel and participation on the 'on call' duty rota. For an information pack and application form, please telephone 0844 8001941 or email: enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk quoting the position you are interested in. We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.
To apply/more information:
Fostercare UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 8001941
Email enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk

Duty and Referrals Co-ordinator

Kent
Salary: £16,000
Duty & Referrals Co-ordinator KENT BASED £16k (+ Benefits) f/t position The successful applicant will have a local authority background as either a Social Work Assistant or residential/education services. You will have significant experience of a fostering environment and be able to demonstrate a good understanding of support to foster carers and young people in care. Contracting and commissioning experience and a marketing/PR qualification would be advantageous. Your focus will be on good placement matching, professional support and credibly representing FosterCare UK. An ability to understand and manage challenge and risk is essential for this post. You will have the commercial skill-set necessary to respond flexibly and creatively to duty matters and support the social work team in effectively delivering outstanding services to our young people, foster carers and local authority partners. For an information pack and application form, please telephone 0844 8001941 or email: enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk quoting the position you are interested in. We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.
To apply/more information:
Fostercare UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 8001941
Email enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk

Independent Support Workers/Mentors

Kent
Salary: TBA
Independent Support Workers/Mentors Hourly rate payment Additional Support Workers/Mentors are required to complete a range of duties on a bespoke basis, in particular we are interested in people who have worked on a 1:1 basis with young people, supervised contact and offered driving and escorting services. For an information pack and application form, please telephone 0844 8001941 or email: enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk quoting the position you are interested in. We value skills and are committed to the further development of our people to ensure we remain at the forefront of the profession.
To apply/more information:
Fostercare UK Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0844 8001941
Email enquiries@fostercareuk.co.uk

Assistant Manager

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Brambles Care Home Require an Assistant Manager 32 hrs pw. Assisting the manager to lead our staff team to deliver excellent quality care to the homes elderly residents . Applicants will be self motivated and enthusiastic with exceptional Interpersonal skills and previous experience in a supervisory role within a care setting. Applicants will hold suitable care qualifications and will possess good levels of IT skills. The post requires some weekend and on-call working. For an informal discussion, a job description and application form contact Kevin or Sheila Bramble Lane WYE, ASHFORD. Kent TN25 5EE Tel: 01233 813217
To apply/more information:
Brambles Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 813217
Email info@bramblescare.co.uk

HOME HELP

Sevenoaks
Salary: £7.24 per hour
HOME HELP for Sheltered Housing apartments in central Sevenoaks £7.24 per hour 22 hours a week (9am – 2.30pm Tuesday to Friday - with some possible flexibility) Duties will include general cleaning in residents flats, shopping, laundry etc. Pension scheme, free parking on site, Company sick pay after 6 mths, health plan. For details please ring Jay Drake, Personnel Manager on 01732 458762 We will apply for an Enhanced CRB Disclosure for this post
To apply/more information:
Rockdale House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 458762
Email enquiries@rockdale.org.uk

RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS

Thanet
Salary: £11,620–£ 19,500 PA
To apply/more information:
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 369089
Email info@benecareltd.co.uk

FORM F1 ASSESSORS

Kent
Salary: TBA
RESIDENTIAL VACANCIES THANET AREA SALARY RANGE £ 11.620–£ 19,500 PA PLUS INCREMENTS WE REQUIRE RESIDENTIAL SUPPORT WORKERS – ALL LEVELS UP TO AND INCLUDING DEPUTY MANAGERS – TO WORK IN OUR NEW HOME. QUALIFICATIONS: NVQ 3 OR EQUIVALENT PREFERRED. HOWEVER TRAINING WILL BE PROVIDED FOR APPLICANTS WITH EVIDENT POTENTIAL AND / OR RELEVANT EXPERIENCE. CONTACT OUR SERVICES MANAGER ON 01227 369089 Email: info@benecareltd.co.uk FOSTERING APPLICATIONS ARE WELCOMED FROM EXPERIENCED OR NEW FOSTER CARERS. WE ALSO REQUIRE QUALIFIED FORM F1 ASSESSORS AND INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKERS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR OUR EXISTING CARERS. CONTACT OUR SERVICES MANAGER ON: 01227 362510. Email : info@benecarefostering.co.uk www.benecareltd.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 362510.
Email info@benecarefostering.co.uk

INDEPENDENT SOCIAL WORKERS

Kent
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 362510.
Email info@benecarefostering.co.uk

Helpline Volunteers

Canterbury
Salary: NA
For women and girls who are survivors of rape or childhood sexual abuse Helpline Volunteers We are currently looking for female helpline volunteers. We offer a free training course which consists of one evening a week for 10 weeks and will start 3rd November 2009. Counselling Training with: Louise MacKinney BA (Hons), MSc, DipCouns, MBACP (Snr.Accred), UKCP Only suitable for qualified Counsellors (or in final year of Diploma) Starting January 2010 consisting of 30 hours over 8 evenings and 2 Saturdays Cost is £200 which can be refunded if the Counsellor completes 50hrs counselling for East Kent Rapeline For an application form for either course please contact: Kate or Debbie on 01227 451753 or E-mail: info@eastkentrapeline.com Section 7.2(d) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies. Charity No 1017581.
To apply/more information:
East Kent Rapeline
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 451753
Email info@eastkentrapeline.com

Public Sector, Social Services

Community Liaison Officer (Early Years)

Gillingham
Salary: £16,663 - £22,001 per annum
Closing Date: 2 October 2009 Community Liaison Officer (Early Years) (Job Ref: EDS/467) Grade: C1 – Salary: £16,663 - £22,001 per annum Hours: 37 hours per week – 52 weeks a year Location: Saxon Way Primary School Church Path Ingram Road, Gillingham, Kent ME7 1SJ Saxon Way Childrens Centre is experiencing an exciting time of growth and as a result we are now looking to recruit a full-time Community Liaison Officer to join our enthusiastic team. Working in the Gillingham area we are looking to appoint a man or a woman who is excited by new challenges and willing to implement new projects for local families with young children whilst working in partnership with a multitude of partner agencies. Having experience of working with both parents/carers and children, you will be responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating Parent and Toddler Groups in settings across our reach area, as well as working in partnership with key statutory, voluntary and private agencies to create real positive change for our families. You will have the skills to involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community. Children's Centres are hubs of information for local families, so knowledge of the local community will be essential. An understanding of the roles of other professionals and partners will also be an advantage. This post also requires a level 3 Childcare/Early Years or comparable relevant qualification. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Margaret Windeatt, Community Services Manager on Tel: 01634 852320 or email office@saxon-way.medway.sch.uk Closing Date: 2 October 2009 Interviews will be held: 14 October 2009
To apply/more information:
Saxon Way Primary School
Quoting Job Ref: EDS/467
Email office@saxon-way.medway.sch.uk

CAF Co-ordinator

Thanet
Salary: £30,219
Closing Date: Midday 5th October 2009.
CAF Co-ordinator Starting salary £30,219, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,724 per annum Full-time This is an exciting and innovative opportunity to manage and further develop the effective co-ordination of the Kent Common Assessment Framework (CAF) in Thanet. You will be working with officers and practitioners across Kent County Council directorate and Kent Children's Trust Partner Agencies to ensure there is an effective process established in Thanet. You will need substantial experience of leadership, management of change, staff supervision and a high level of political and organisational skill. Tact and diplomacy are pre-requisites along with a commitment to improving the outcomes for children and their families. You will be required to monitor and review the integrated systems and framework to ensure the needs identified through the CAF process can be addressed. As Thanet will benefit from extra resources to address the high level of need, you will also be able to develop the process to promote family assessments through the 'Think Family' pilot. This post will be based at Clover House, Whitstable and will involve travelling to Thanet for meetings. This post is subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau. Previous applicants need not apply. To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote reference number CFE/09/0421. Closing date: Midday 5th October 2009. Interviews are expected to take place on the afternoons of 13th & 14th October 2009.
To apply/more information:
Kent County Council
Quoting Job Ref: CFE/09/0421
Tel: 0845 8247 904
Email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk

PUBLIC NOTICES

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE FOR MIDKENT COLLEGE OF HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

MidKent College of Higher and Further Education is applying for a new premises licence at MidKent College, Medway Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1FN.

This application is made to Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TR and is for a licence for the following licensable activities:

- The provision of Regulated Entertainment (09.00-23.00)
- The provision of Entertainment Facilities (09.00-23.00)
- The Supply of Alcohol (18.00-23.00)

Should you wish to make representations to the Council it must be in writing and/or you can view this application by contacting the Council on (01634) 337110 by 19th October 2009.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is £5,000.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/02067/FL & TM/09/02068/LB – 2 The Laurels Addington Green Addington West Malling Kent ME19 5BB – Mr P Annis is applying for a conservatory. Reason: HH LB CA

TM/09/02245/FL & TM/09/02246/LB – Whiffins Farm 12 Maidstone Road Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8BD – Mr And Mrs Jackson are applying for Erect a single storey, timber framed, glazed orangery. Reason: LB HH

TM/09/02248/LB – 32 Mount Pleasant Aylesford Kent ME20 7BE – Mr Christopher Bubb is applying for Listed Building Application: New window to rear elevation, repositioning of bathroom and addition of dormer windows to the North-East elevation. Reason: CA LB

(A) TM/09/02168/FL & (B) TM/09/02170/FL – Petts Farm Rochester Road Burham Rochester Kent ME1 3SQ – Mr Chris Hall is applying for (A) conversion and change of use of existing oast house and cottage to single dwelling, including alterations to building, erection of garage/cart shed and store and related works & (B) change of use and conversion of existing timber barn to single dwelling, including alterations to building, erection of garage/cart shed and store, and related works. Reason: GPI

TM/09/02001/LB – Sandstone Cottage High Street Wrotham Sevenoaks TN15 7AA – Mr Chris Mills are applying for Listed Building Application: Removal of existing window and formation of new doorway and side light constructed of painted timber single glazed split doors and hinged side light. Formation of new window opening and construction of new painted timber single glazed openable window - all to match existing. Reason: CA LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
GPI Application is of general Public Interest
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 18 October 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
27 September 2009



HIGHWAYS- District of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ALBEMARLE ROAD, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the construction of a new wastewater pipeline in Hunter Road, Ashford and the use of Albemarle Road as a diversion route, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting Waiting at any time on the west side of Albemarle Road, Ashford. This will be between the junctions with Osborne Road and Glover Road, and Glover Road and Hythe Road. The Order is due to come into force on or after 28 September 2009 for a period of up to 8 weeks, or until the works are complete.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HUNTER ROAD, ASHFORD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the installation of a new wastewater pipeline, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Hunter Road, Ashford, as described in columns 1 & 2 of the Schedule to this Order, on or after 28 September 2009, for an estimated period of 6 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in column 3 of the Schedule.

Schedule

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Hunter Road	Between the junction with Osborne Road and the junction with Glover Road	Osborne Road, Albemarle Road, Hythe Road and Hunter Road	From 28 September 2009 for up to three weeks
Phase 2			
Hunter Road	Between the junction with Glover Road and the entrance to the car park of the Windmill Inn	Hunter Road, Osborne Road, Albemarle Road and Hythe Road	From 19 October 2009 for up to three weeks

This Order will come into force from 28 September 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(NEW STREET, SANDWICH) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new gas and electrical connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on New Street, Sandwich from the junction with Austins Lane to the junction with King Street on or after 27 September 2009 for an estimated period of 2 Sundays or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic for light vehicles will be via St Barts Road, Woodnesborough Road, Moat Sole and Cattle Market. Large vehicles via A258 Dover Road, A256 Sandwich Bypass, Ash Road and Strand Street.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WHITFIELD AVENUE, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing Works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Whitfield Avenue, Dover from its junction with Crabble Hill to Green Lane (1) including its junction with Brookfield Avenue (2) on or after 30 September 2009 for an estimated period of One night or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via (1) Crabble Hill, Old Park Road, Brookfield Avenue, Old Park Hill, Roosevelt Road and Winant Way. (2) Eastbound: Old Park Road and Buckland Avenue. Westbound: Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue, London Road, Crabble Hill and Old Park Road..

This order will come into force on Monday 28 September 2009 and will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CAULDHAM LANE, CAPEL-LE-FERNE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICEis hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Cauldham Lane, Capel-Le-Ferne from the junction with Hurst Lane to the junction with Cauldham Close on or after 5 October 2009 for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Hurst Lane and Capel Street.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
THE RIDGEWAY AND WOODLANDS LANE, SHORNE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads in Shorne as attached schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 28th September 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be as per the attached schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate critical carriageway surfacing repairs.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Extent	Duration	Diversion
The Ridgeway	Between Woodlands Lane and Tanyard Hill	28th September 2009 for 2 days	(East Bound) Darnley Lodge Lane, Thong Lane, Rochester Road, Gravesend Road
Woodlands Lane	Whole length	28th September 2009 for 2 days	(West Bound) Gravesend Road, Rochester Road, Old Road East, Valley Drive

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VINTERS ROAD, MAIDSTONE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC & SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Vinters Road outside Huntsman's Cottage on or after Sunday 18th October 2009 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed. The one way order is temporarily suspended during the closure to allow for access.

The alternative route for the above restriction is westbound via Huntsman Lane, A20 Ashford Road, A249 Albion Place and eastbound via A249 Albion Place, Andrew Boughton Way, A20 Ashford Road, Huntsman Lane.

W. W. Martin (Thanet) Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for a mobile crane to assist the dismantling of a tower crane. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Julia Robinson on 01843 591584.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
HONEYPOT LANE, EDENBRIDGE (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Honeypot Lane, Edenbridge between its junctions with Troy Lane to Kent/Surrey Border.

The Order will become effective on 28th September 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to start on 4th October and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Grant Lane, Monks Lane, Hole Lane, B2026 Main Road, Hilders Lane and Troy Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of a BT pole and aerial cable.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ELHAM PARK, STELLING MINNIS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICEis hereby given that because BT overhead cable maintenance works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Elham Park, Stelling Minnis from the junction with Gildridge Hill to the junction with Park Gate Hill on or after 12 October 2009 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Gildridge Hill, Fryarne Park, Wheelbarrow Town, Droveway, Clavertye, Exted Hill, Park Lane and Park Gate Hill.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PLEYDELL GARDENS, FOLKESTONE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new electrical and gas connection works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Pleydell Gardens, Folkestone from junction with Cheriton Place to the junction with Shakespeare Terrace on or after 5 October 2009 for an estimated period of 2 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Cheriton Place, Sandgate Road and Shakespeare Terrace. To allow access to the north car park entrance, there will be a temporary suspension of the existing one way order on Pleydell Gardens from the junction with Shakespeare Terrace to the junction with Cheriton Place. This temporary suspension will cease on completion of the works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BROADWAY, SHEERNESS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because new gas supply works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Broadway, Sheerness at its junction with High Street to outside number 22 on or after 28 September 2009 for an estimated period of 5 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Trinity Road, Trinity Way and Broadway.

The existing one way traffic order on Broadway Sheerness between High Street and Trinity Road is suspended to make two way for access purposes only.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CHARLOTTE STREET AND JUBILEE STREET, SITTINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of gas mains replacement works, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Charlotte Street and Jubilee Street, Sittingbourne, on or after 28 September 2009 for an estimated period of 14 weeks, not 3 weeks as orignally advertised, or until the works are complete. Charlotte Street will be closed between the junctions with Millen Road and Watson's Hill. Jubilee Street will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route for through traffic for Charlotte Street will be via Watson's Hill, Chalkwell Road, St Paul's Street and Millen Road. There is no diversion for Jubilee Street as it is a cul-de-sac.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(SOUTH AVENUE, SITTINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on South Avenue, Sittingbourne, from its junction with East Street for a distance of approximately 35 metres, on or after 16 October 2009 for an estimated period of 4 working nights or until the works are complete. It is planned that the junction will be closed on the nights of 16 October 2009 and 19, 20 and 21 October 2009, between the hours of 8.00 pm and 5.00 am with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via St Michael's Road, Crown Quay Lane, Bell Road and Chilton Avenue.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(WELL ROAD, QUEENBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of works to repair damage to kerbs, carriageway and footway, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Well Road, Queenborough, between the junction with Castle Street and the entrance to the garages, on or after 12 October 2009, for an estimated period of 4 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Castle Street, Chalk Road and North Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FAIRLAWN ROAD, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because carriageway repairs works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Fairlawn Road, Ramsgate from between the junction with Coxes Lane on or after 28 September 2009 for an estimated period of 2 Days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via signs to be placed at junction of Fairlawn Road advising of road closure, no access between 09.00hrs & 16.00hrs.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HAINE ROAD, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because installation of traffic calming works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Haine Road, Ramsgate from South roundabout adjacent to Spratling Street junction and Toby Inn roundabout at junction with A256 Haine Road/New Haine Road on or after 12 October 2009 for an estimated period of 5 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A256 New Haine Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(ALBION STREET, BROADSTAIRS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because Carriageway Improvement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Albion Street, Broadstairs from entire length on or after 12 October 2009 for an estimated period of twelve weeks or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Charlotte Street, York Street, York Avenue, High Street, Carlton Avenue, Lindenthorpe Road and Nelson Place.

This order will come into force on Monday 12 October 2009, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected, and will remain valid for a period for a maximum period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(CECILIA GROVE, BROADSTAIRS) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because gas main replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Cecilia Grove, Broadstairs from its junction with Beacon Road on or after 12 October 2009 for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Beacon Road and Grange Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MELBOURNE AVENUE, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because carriageway repair works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Melbourne Avenue, Ramsgate from number 69 to number 74 Melbourne Avenue on or after 12 October 2009 for an estimated period of 2 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via St Johns Avenue, The Centre and Princess Margaret Avenue, signs to be placed at both ends of Melbourne Avenue advising of road closure, no access from 9am to 4pm.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BUSH AVENUE, RAMSGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because carriageway repair works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Bush Avenue, Ramsgate from the junction with Newington Road to number 8 Bush Avenue then from number 38 to and including the roundabout on or after 14 October 2009 for an estimated period of 2 nights or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Newington Road, Manston Road, Princess Margaret Avenue, The Centre, Kimberley Road, Brandon Road and Riversdale Road, signs to be placed at both ends of Bush Avenue advising of night time closure.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRADBOURNE LANE, DITTON) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Bradbourne Lane, Ditton between the junctions of A20 London Road and Saint Peters Road and from outside 54 to the ford on or after Monday 28th September 2009 for a period of up to 12 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for northbound traffic via Saint Peters Road, New Road, A20 London Road and for southbound traffic vice versa.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for gas mains replacement. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is John Adsley on 01233 714082.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(TAYLORS LANE, TROTTISCLIFFE) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Taylors Lane, Trottiscliffe on or after Monday 12th October 2009 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for southbound traffic via Vigo Hill, A227 Gravesend Road, A20 London Road, Trottiscliffe Road, Addington Lane, and for northbound traffic vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PHILPOTS LANE, HILDENBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Philpots Lane, Hildenborough on or after Monday 12th October 2009 for a period of up to 10 working days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Watt's Cross Road, B245 London Road, Morley's Road, Scabharbour Road, Scabharbour Lane and for eastbound traffic via Coppings Road, Compasses Road, B2027 Penshurst Road, High Street, Hildenborough Road, Rings Hill.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for essential carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Robert Seggie on 08458 247 800.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LADHAM ROAD, GOUDHURST) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ladham Road outside The Granary on or after Tuesday 29th October 2009 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for westbound traffic via Jarvis Lane, Ladham Road and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

BT Openreach apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for replacing a telegraph pole and cabling works in the area. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Stuart Lane of McNicholas Construction on 01273 494659.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, PEMBURY) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in Schedule 1.

The alternative route for each route described in Schedule 1 is described in Schedule 2. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure.

The Order will become effective on 28th September 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. The dates for works will be notified on site 14 days in advance.

Schedule 1

Road Name	Extent of Closure
Dundale Road, Pembury	80 metres south of Hodges Farm - road crossing
Woodside Road, Pembury	50 metres north of Woodside House - road crossing
Romford Road, Pembury	Outside number 51 Priory Cottage - road crossing
Stone Court Lane, Pembury	Outside of Stone Court Farm - road crossing
Maidstone Road, Pembury	Outside the entrance to Dowingbury Cottages - road crossing
Redwings Lane, Pembury	From Old Church Road junction for 280 metres
Old Church Road, Pembury	Pembury Walks to Redwings Lane

Schedule 2

Road Name	Diversion Route
Dundale Road, Pembury	Southbound traffic via A21 By-Pass, A264 Pembury Road, Bayhall Road, Forest Road, Hawkenbury Road, Dundale Road. Northbound traffic vice versa.
Woodside Road, Pembury	Southbound traffic via Romford Road, Henwood Green Road. Northbound traffic vice versa.
Romford Road, Pembury	Westbound traffic via Woodside Road, Henwood Green Road, Romford Road. Eastbound traffic vice versa.
Stone Court Lane, Pembury	No diversion.
Maidstone Road, Pembury	Southbound traffic via A228 Pembury Northern By-Pass, High Street, Lower Green Road, Maidstone Road. Northbound traffic vice versa.
Redwings Lane, Pembury	Eastbound traffic via A228 Maidstone Road, Redwings Lane. Westbound traffic vice versa.
Old Church Road, Pembury	Northbound traffic via A228 Pembury Northern By-Pass, Tonbridge Road, A21 Tonbridge Road, Pembury Walks. Southbound traffic vice versa.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the laying of a clean water pipeline to be undertaken by South East Water.

Please Note: Access will be maintained for all residents, businesses and their visitors as much as possible during the works.

For further information or comment please call Nicola Stone of Clancy Docwra on 01634 873290.

HIGHWAYS - Boroughs of Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGHS OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS MAIDSTONE, AND TONBRIDGE & MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC AND 10MPH CONVOY WORKING SPEED RESTRICTION) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in Column 1 of the Schedule 1 hereto and also prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic traveling at any speed greater than 10mph with the implementation of convoy working on the route described in schedule 2.

The alternative route for each route described in Columns 1 &2 of Schedule 1 hereto is described in Column 3 of that Schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure.

The Order will come into operation on Monday 12th October 2009 and will be valid for a maximum period of up to 18 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is sooner. The anticipated dates of works are listed in column 1.

Schedule 1

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Specified Road and Proposed Start Date and Duration	The Section affected	The alternative routes
A26 London Road/ Eridge Road, Tunbridge Wells 2nd November 2009 for duration of up to 4 nights.	From A267 Nevill Street to Major Yorks Road.	North bound traffic via Major Yorks Road, A264 Bishops Down, Church Road, A26 London Road. South bound traffic vice versa.
A26 Eridge Road, Tunbridge Wells - 2nd November 2009 for duration of up to 4 nights. (Not at same time as above)	From Linden Park Road to Major Yorks Road.	East bound traffic via A26 Eridge Road, Broadwater Down, A267 Frant Road, Nevill Street. West bound traffic vice versa.
A267 Frant Road/ Nevill Street, Tunbridge Wells 6th November 2009 for duration of up to 4 nights.	From Warwick Park to Rodmell Road.	North bound traffic via Broadwater Down, A26 Eridge Road, A267 Nevill Street. South bound traffic vice versa.
Quarry Road/ Grosvenor Bridge, Tunbridge Wells 12th November 2009 for duration of up to 4 nights.	Whole lengths from Camden Road to Upper Grosvenor Road.	North bound traffic via Camden Road, Victoria Road, Goods Station Road, Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road. South bound traffic via Upper Grosvenor Road, Meadow Road, Goods Station Road, Victoria Road, Camden Road.
Pearsons Green Road, Paddock Road 16th November 2009 for duration of up to 3 days.	From Churn Lane to Knowle Road.	East bound traffic via Pearsons Green Road, Mile Oak Road, Pixot Hill, Crook Road, Yew Tree Green Road, B2162 Maidstone Road, Churn Lane. West bound traffic vice versa.
Upper Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells 18th November 2009 for duration of up to 4 nights.	From Queens Road to Cambrian Road.	South bound traffic via Sandhurst Road, A264 Pembury Road, B2023 Prospect Road, A264 Calverley Road, Crescent Road, Church Road, A26 London Road, Grosvenor Road, Upper Grosvenor Road. North bound traffic vice versa but also using Meadow Road, Goods Station Road.
Stocks Green Road, Hildenborough 30th November 2009 for duration of up to 7 nights.	From Rings Hill/ Watts Cross Road to a point adjacent to property no. 23 Stocks Green Road.	East bound traffic via Rings Hill, Watts Cross Road, B245 London Road, Tonbridge Road, B2027 Leigh Road. West bound traffic vice versa.
A26 Tonbridge Road, Hadlow 1st December 2009 for duration of up to 7 nights.	From Blackmans Lane to Carpenters Lane.	Southwest bound traffic via A26 Hadlow High Street, Maidstone Road, A228 Seven Mile Lane, Boyle Way, Branbridges Road, Whetsted Road, B2017 Badsell Road, Five Oak Green Road, Tudeley Lane, Five Oak Green Road, A26 Woodgate Way, Vale Road, Cannon Lane, Hadlow Road, Cornwallis Avenue, Hadlow Road, Tonbridge Road. Northeast bound traffic vice versa.
Bell Road, Maidstone 12th October 2009 for duration of up to 2 days.	From Wallis Avenue (east) to and including the crossroads at junction with Francis Lane/ Brishing Lane.	West bound and eastbound traffic via Wallis Avenue.
Cradducks Lane, Staplehurst 14th October 2009 for duration of up to 4 days.	From Headcorn Road to Frittenden Road.	South bound traffic via Headcorn Road, A229 High Street, Frittenden Road. North bound traffic vice versa.
A229 Fairmeadow, Maidstone 12th October 2009 for a duration of up to 10 nights	From St Peters Bridge gyratory to Medway Street. (in both directions)	North bound traffic via A229 Fairmeadow, Bishops Way, Palace Avenue, Lower Stone Street, A249 Mote Road, Wat Tyler Way, Andrew Broughton Way, Albion Place, Sittingbourne Road, B2012 Holland Road, Well Road, Lower Boxley Road, Staceys Street, A229 Fairmeadow. South bound traffic vice versa.
Workhouse Lane, East Farleigh - 13th October 2009 for a duration of up to 4 days	Whole length	West bound traffic via Dean Street, B2163 Heath Road, Stockett Lane. East bound traffic vice versa.
A229 Palace Avenue/ Lower Stone Street, Maidstone - 15th October 2009 for a duration of up to 5 nights	From public car park entrance to Romney Place.	South bound traffic via A229 Bishops Way, Broadway, St Peters Bridge, Fairmeadow, B2012 Stacey Street, Lower Boxley Road, Well Road, Holland Road, A249 Sittingbourne Road, Albion Place, Andrew Broughton Way, Ashford Road, Wat Tyler Way, Mote Road.
Union Street, Maidstone 21st October 2009 for a duration of up to 3 nights	From Wheeler Street to A249 Sittingbourne Road	East bound traffic via Wheeler Street, Holland Road, A249 Sittingbourne Road. West bound traffic vice versa.
Sandling Lane, Maidstone 26th October 2009 for a duration of up to 4 nights	From Boxley Road to Wordsworth Road	West bound traffic via Penenden Heath Road, A249 Sittingbourne Road, B2012 Holland Road, Well Road, Lower Boxley Road, Stacey Street, A229 Royal Engineers Road, Chatham Road, Running Horse Roundabout, Sandling Lane. East bound traffic vice versa.
Mote Road/ Mote Avenue, Maidstone - 7th October 2009 for a duration of up to 4 nights	From Chancery Lane to Greenside.	East bound traffic via A249 Mote Road, A229 Upper Stone Street, Loose Road, Park Way, West Park Road, Willow Way or when access to Hastings Road is available via Hastings Road, St Phillips Avenue, Lower Road, Upper Road, Willow Way. West bound traffic via Willow Way, West Park Road, Park Way, Armstrong Road, Postley Road, A229 Hayle Road, College Road or when access from Hastings Road is available via Willow Way, Upper Road, Lower Road, St Phillips Avenue, Hastings Road.
Haste Hill Road, Boughton Monchelsea - 29th October 2009 for a duration of up to 4 days	From Hubbards Lane to Church Street.	East bound traffic via Hubbards Lane, B2163 Heath Road, Church Street. West bound traffic vice versa.
B2010 Yalding Hill/ Smiths Hill, Yalding - 1st December 2009 for a duration of up to 3 nights.	From Shingle Barn Lane to Small Profits.	South bound traffic via B2010 Smiths Hill, Lower Road, Teston Lane, A26 Tonbridge Road, B2015 Bow Road, Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, Lees Road, B2010 Yalding High Street. North bound traffic vice versa. The environmental weight restriction on the B2015 Nettlestead will be temporarily suspended while these works are in progress

Schedule 2

C97 Boxley Road, Maidstone 26th October 2009 for a duration of up to 4 nights	From Boxley Close to Sandling Lane. To be in operation at times when indicated by signage on site.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information about these works, the Kent Highway Services contact is Graham Killick of Jacobs on 01622 666337.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

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C-Max finally maxed out

By **STEVE LOADER**

STUNG by Vauxhall's hugely successful Zafira midi-MPV, Ford responded belatedly with the Ford C-Max.

As if it could not bring itself to acknowledge the cleverness of the Vauxhall's seven-seat packaging though, Ford insisted that research showed no major call for a mid-sized seven-seater and the C-Max would only ever appear as a 'five-up' model.

This proved to be the worst kind of PR spin; Ford has since produced a slightly bigger seven-seat rival to the Zafira – the S-Max – and has now unveiled a seven-seat Grand C-Max for launch next year.

So, from claiming there was no market at all, it now has two seven-seaters, though they are like chalk and cheese.

The S-Max is a rare thing – a classy looking and sporty MPV – while the new Grand C-Max is pug-ugly and never going to win on looks against its most obvious rivals, the sector-leading Zafira, Renault's stylish Grand Scenic and the classy Mazda5.

Even two big plus points are shared with the Mazda: rear sliding doors for easier access to both rear seat rows and a fold away middle seat in row two, allowing 'walk thru' access to the rearmost chairs.



Still at least we get a smart replacement for the current C-Max five-door, unveiled alongside the seven-seater and due out in 2010 too.

Both cars have features claimed to "enhance practicality and safety for family users" including semi-automatic parallel parking, blind spot detection, seat belt warning lights for rear-seat passengers, power-activated child locks and a powered tailgate.

They should also be among the first Ford models to deploy a new range of high-efficiency, low-CO2 EcoBoost turbocharged petrol engines, following a trend already set by VW and its associated brands and likely to lead a fight back against diesel cars.

The new C-Max will also be able to trade upon the popularity of the current car launched in 2003 and something of a slow burn as would-be buyers weighed up the greater passenger-carrying ability of the Zafira.

Fortunately, the other qualities of the C-Max slowly began to show through, helped by aggressive real rather than optimistic list prices, and by a seemingly plentiful supply of pre-registered stock.

For here was an MPV that looked and felt like a hatchback to drive. The sharpened lines of the new version go further, with an almost coupé-like roofline falling away to the rear, while retaining the required roominess.

This is not a description that can be applied to the longer and frumpier Grand C-Max; when three other carmakers have already got the midi/seven-seat styling so right, how can Ford think that this effort can succeed?

We're not talking slow burn here – we're talking flame out.

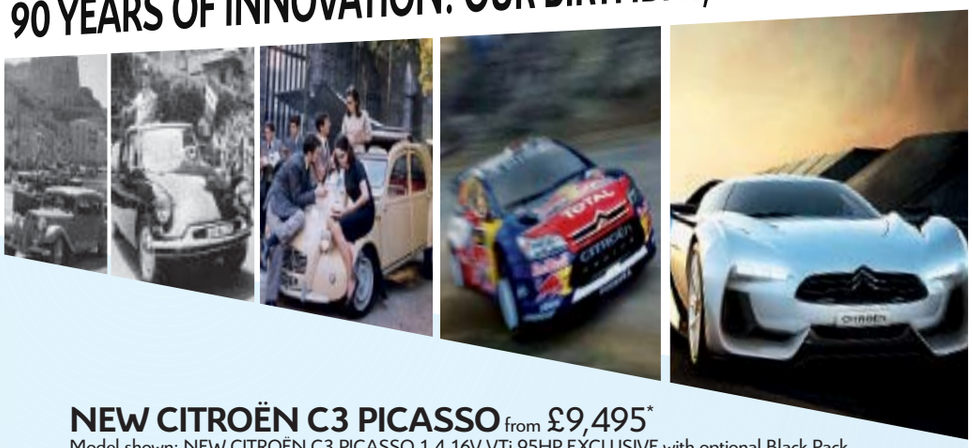
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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Reborn Lexus IS gets V8 look to rival rivals

ORDER books are open for a new look BMW 3-Series-bashing IS model from Toyota luxury arm, Lexus.

For a company that trumpets the eco-friendliness of its existing hybrid models, it makes much of the limited slip differential added to the ultra-high performance IS F V8 version, enabling that car to shave two seconds off its Fuji International Speedway lap time.

Do we care? Well, the real point is the glamour of the brutal IS F spreads to the overall line-up and how IS 'cooking' versions can now be specified with an F-Sport lookalike package.

Available for all IS petrol and diesel models it brings 'F' details including grille, rear spoiler, exclusive 18-inch alloys and seats.

The Japanese premium brand has also unveiled an upmarket hybrid hatchback concept to interest responsible 'user choosers' and their companies.

It will upset BMW and Audi and, possibly VW, who have found their 1-Series, A3 and Golf models appealing to downsizers in a segment tipped to take over soon as the largest in the UK and Europe's premium car market.



A new Saab to sweep away GM nightmare – or does it?

SAAB has gone public with a 9-5 flagship replacement expected to herald a new era for the upmarket Swedish brand.

After nearly two decades of uneasy ownership – for both sides – by the American General Motors group, Saab now partners supercar producer and fellow Swedish marque Koenigsegg.

However, despite being the first car from the new pairing, the 9-5 is a spin-off from the Vauxhall/Opel Insignia produced by Saab's former masters.

But it does express 'design language' from the brand's exciting Aero X concept, with a wrap-around windscreen echoing Saab classics and a facia underlining past links with the famous Saab aircraft company.

The 9-5 saloon launches next year, but there is no news yet whether it will be followed by an estate, as in the current line-up.



Golf is R-eal fast

VOLKSWAGEN is also playing the performance card for all it is worth, despite promoting an impressive eco-friendly BlueMotion sub-brand.

As we await a new Golf BlueMotion, VWs fastest-accelerating Golf – the Golf R – is due in December.

This sixth generation Golf scorcher can hit 62mph in 5.7 seconds. Its turbocharged 270PS (268bhp) 2.0-litre, linked to four-wheel drive, is lighter and more powerful than the 3.2-litre V6 found in the outgoing Golf R32, yet can average around 33mpg instead of 26mpg, with CO2 emissions a fifth lower. Pricing is awaited.



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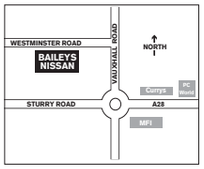
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Chevrolet engages Cruze control as brakes come off in UK market

by STEVELOADER

VALUE brand Chevrolet is flexing its muscles in the UK.

It is a timely move as beleaguered parent, General Motors, divests itself of its European Vauxhall/Opel operation, which means the gloves are now off in crucial market sectors where the former sister brands competed.

Chevrolet has done well so far this year; the brand's new car registrations are less than five per cent down on 2008 – not bad against an industry average of more than minus 21 per cent.

Much rides on the mid-size sector where Chevrolet has just launched the impressive Cruze saloon; this is the first UK Chevy that you might buy on looks rather than price.

So far, with the exception of the big but likeable Captiva SUV, most of the brand's efforts here so far have been retreads from the former Korean Daewoo car brand that GM ultimately bought out.

But the Cruze is different and, unlike many modern ranges, the entry model is most tempting. It's a 111bhp 1.6-litre petrol version available from £11,995 and a lot of car for the money.

But this is now joined by a new 123bhp 2.0-litre diesel entry model (pictured), priced from £13,745 that outperforms the petrol for speed and economy: it will hit 60mph in 10.3 seconds and average 50+mpg.





MONEY MATTERS: Chevrolet's Cruze gets extra power diesel version while there's £500 insurance and styling package teaser for the Aveo

With the sale of Vauxhall/Opel to the Canadian Magna Group though, the Cruze will be up against the sophisticated next generation Astra by the end of the year.

Both cars share a platform and the Astra, of course, has the hatchback format preferred by UK buyers – how long before Chevrolet addresses that issue?

Meanwhile, the brand has given one of its best-sellers an extra edge; along with the Matiz city car, the Chevrolet Aveo has been a big beneficiary of the Government-sponsored Scrappage scheme and now the 1.2S three-door entry model is available with a styling pack, metallic paint and a year's fully comprehensive insurance (over-21s) for £8,995, just £500 above list price.

Clearly aimed at younger buyers, this brings a front bumper spoiler, side skirts and tailgate spoiler, chrome exhaust finisher, chrome skid plates, floor mats and chrome effect door pins and air vent surrounds.

But while Chevrolet dealers have done better this year than most, profitability on small cars like the Aveo is low and the £2,000/car Scrappage grant fund is dwindling.

Caffyns Tunbridge Wells' general sales manager Andy Kitney said: "We are still taking orders, but the money is clearly running out.

"And profits are tight anyway. Our best-seller is the Matiz, available from £4,295 after the £2,000 Scrappage grant. Nobody can make money at a price like that.

"But we have to take positives and we know that that is another customer who, hopefully, will use our servicing facilities."

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 132g/km. Lacetti 1.4 SE 5dr: Urban - 28.8 (9.8), Extra-urban - 49.5 (5.7), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO_2 emissions 165g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions 119g/km.

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Lacetti and Aveo £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price at time of publication and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th September 2009. Prices correct at time of press.

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Official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Hyundai i30 1.2: Urban 7.6 (37.2), Extra Urban 5.2 (54.3), Combined 6.1 (46.3), CO2 Emissions 145g/km.

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07 57 Suzuki SX4 1.6 GLX 5dr Hatch 11,884 Miles Orange	£7795
09 09 Suzuki Splash 1.2 5dr Hatch 2,210 Miles Grey	£8595
07 07 Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3dr Hatch 17,000 Miles Black	£8595
09 59 Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX 5dr Hatch 3,080 Miles Black	£8695
08 58 Suzuki Jimny 1.3 VVT 3dr Estate 1,590 Miles Grey	£8995
09 09 Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX 5dr Hatch 4,059 Miles Red	£8995
09 09 Suzuki SX4 1.6 GLX 5dr Hatch 3,351 Miles Blue	£9495
09 09 Suzuki Swift 1.2 DDiS 5dr Hatch 4,200 Miles Grey	£9850
08 58 Suzuki SX 1.6 DT 5dr Hatch 14,000 Miles Silver	£9795
09 09 Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport 3dr Hatch 4,050 Miles Red	£10295
08 08 Hyundai i30 1.6 CRTD Premium 5dr Hatch 11,060 Miles Grey	£11495
08 08 Hyundai i30 2.0 CRTD Premium 5dr Hatch 17,000 Miles in Black	£11795
08 58 Hyundai i30 1.6 Premium 5dr Hatch 2,800 Miles Red	£12495

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Motability

The Official Fuel Consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the Suzuki Grand Vitara Range are: Urban 10.5 - 14.4 (26.9 - 19.6), Extra Urban 7.5 - 8.3 (37.7 - 34.0), Combined 8.6 - 10.6 (32.8 - 26.7) and CO2 205 - 245 (g/km).

All offers and vehicles offered are subject to availability while stocks last. Please note models portrayed are for illustration purposes only. Details correct at time of going to print.

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Vauxhall Astra 1.4 16v Active 5dr RRP £15975
Barnes Price **£9995** **Save £5980***



Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 16v Active RRP £17760
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Official Government Test Environmental Data - Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): Vauxhall Range: urban 12.7 (22.3) - 51.4 (5.5), extra-urban 25.4 (11.1) - 74.3 (3.8), combined 18.6 (15.2) - 62.8 (4.5), C02 Emissions 119 - 364 g/km.

Models shown have optional metallic paint available at an additional cost of £395. †Agila Club 1.0i shown available for £6,995 saving £2,500 including Government Scrappage Allowance and Special Vauxhall Saving. Savings shown are against MRP at time of publication. Prices shown are available on selected Retailer stock only, whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. *£2000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.08.99 when traded in against a new car subject to conditions. All offers available to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. Offers may not apply to all Retailer stocks. Offers apply to selected new vehicles ordered or registered between 03.07.09 and 01.10.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. Offers available at participating retailers only. UK supplied vehicles only.

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*SAVE £4025

* Savings against new RRP

USED CARS

AGILA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
08	58	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Steel Silver	4,385	7,995
08	58	Agila Design	1.2	5	Steel silver	5,300	7,995
08	58	Agila Design	1.2	5	Moroccan blue	6,441	7,995
08	58	Agila Club A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	6,450	8,995

ASTRA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Power red	12,675	12,995
07	57	Astra Energy	1.4	5	Silver lightening	13,890	8,495
08	08	Astra Sxi Sports hatch	1.6	3	Black sapphire	15395	10,995
08	08	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	15,890	9,495
08	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	3,725	10,995
08	58	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.4	3	Black sapphire	3,100	10,495
09	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Ultra blue	5,650	10,995
09	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Metro blue	4,720	10,995

CORSA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
01	26*	Corsa comfort auto	1.4	3	Star silver	69350	3495
04	04*	Corsa Energy CDTi	1.3D	5	Spearmint silver	29,520	5,250
04	54	Corsa Design	1.2	5	Star silver	38,180	4,995
06	55	Corsa Life	1.2	3	Misty grey	11,295	5,295
06	06	Corsa Sxi Plus	1.2	3	Silver lightening	30,725	5,395
07	07	Corsa Life A/C	1.2	5	Misty Grey	14,150	7495
07	57	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Air blue	21,575	7,795
07	57	Corsa Design	1.4	5	Silver lightning	19,370	8995
07	57	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Air blue	25800	8,395
08	08	Corsa Breeze	1.2	3	Star silver	12,220	8,495
08	58	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/c	1.3	5	Silver lightening	12775	9.995
08	58	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3	3	Metro blue	6,425	9.995
09	58	Corsa Sxi A/c	1.4	5	Metro blue	11390	9,850
08	58	New Corsa Sxi CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	4,200	9,495

INSIGNIA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
08	58	Insignia Sri (160)	2.0	5	Black sapphire	11,287	16,795
09	58	Insignia Elite Auto Nav	2.0	5	Star silver	4,060	19.995

MERIVA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	07	Meriva Energy	1.4	5	Silver lightening	18,950	7,995
08	58	Meriva CDTi Breeze Plus	1.3	5	Black sapphire	10,930	10,995
08	58	Meriva Life	1.4	5	Air blue	3,720	8,895

TIGRA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Air blue	30,500	8,995

VECTRA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
02	02*	Vectra SXI	1.8	4	Black Saphire	52900	2995
05	55	Vectra Sxi	1.8	5	Star silver	34,190	5,995
06	06	Vectra elite CDTi (150)	1.9	5	Black Sapphire	38,125	9495

ZAFIRA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Zafira Active CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	38,860	8,995
06	06*	Zafira Active CDTi	1.9D	5	Star Silver	79780	6995
07	57	Zafira Design CDTi (120)	1.9D	5	Metro blue	16,820	11,995
08	58	Zafira Breeze CDTi Plus	1.9D	5	Metro blue	12,600	12,995

OTHER MAKES

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
04	54*	Mitsubishi Colt Equipe diesel	1.5	5	Silver	62670	4295
05	55	Citroen C2 design	1.1	3	Blue	30450	4495
06	56	Citroen C3 Desire	1.4	5	Silver	34,510	6,495

DUE SOON

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	07	Astra Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Moonland	22,000	9,295
07	57	Astra Elite	1.6	5	Ultra Blue	20000	9495
09	09	Zafira Sri XP CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	TBA	18,995
09	09	Insignia Elite CDTi Auto (160)	1.9D	4	Black sapphire	TBA	22995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv (160)	1.9D	5	Panacotta	TBA	17,995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv (180)	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	TBA	17,995
09	09	Tigra Exclusive	1.4	2	Antigua	TBA	13,995
06	56	Meriva Active	1.4	5	Star silver	30,000	6,995

COMPANY OWNED VEHICLES - CARS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Agila Design Auto A/c	1.2	4	Sugar white	1,800	9,995
09	09	Agila Design	1.2	5	Moroccan blue	2,200	7,995
09	09	Agila Design	1.2	5	Lemon grass	1,200	7,995
09	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Atlanta blue	1,700	9,995
09	09	Agila Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	2,300	9,995
09	09	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/C	1.3	3	Black sapphire	2,200	10,495
09	09	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/c	1.3	3	Flame red	2,000	10,495
09	09	Corsa Active	1.2	5	Silver lightening	3,350	9,995
09	09	Corsa Sxi In Touch	1.2	5	Star silver	2,200	10,395
09	09	Corsa Design In Touch	1.2	3	Black sapphire	2,000	9,995
09	09	Corsa Sxi In Touch	1.2	5	Star silver	3,350	10,395
09	09	Corsa Sxi In touch	1.2	3	Flame red	2,200	9,495
09	09	Corsa Sxi	1.2	3	Black sapphire	3,000	9,495
09	09	Corsa Active MTA	1.2	5	Silverlight	2,350	9,995
09	09	Corsa Club Auto	1.2	5	Air blue	2,200	10,995
08	58	Astra Sri X Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	2,000	12,995
09	09	Astra Breeze Plus CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	2,350	11,495
09	09	Astra Design Auto	1.8	5	Metro blue	3,700	11,995
09	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	2,300	10,995
09	09	Astra Breeze Plus	1.6	5	Metro blue	3,200	10,495
09	09	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.7D	3	Black sapphire	2,200	11,995
09	09	Meriva Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	2,000	11,495
09	09	Zafira Active CDTi	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	2,350	13,995
09	09	Zafira Breeze Plus	1.6	5	Star silver	1,700	11,995
09	09	Zafira Exclusiv CDTi	1.9D	5	Sovereign silver	2,300	12,995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv	1.8	5	Black sapphire	2,200	14,995
09	09	Insignia Exclusive Tourer CDTi	2.0D	5	Technical grey	3,500	17,995

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COMMERCIAL VEHICLES*

USED SELECTION

Year	Reg	Model	Eng		Colour	M/age	£
09	58	Astravan	1.7CDTi	Sportive CDTi	Star silver	1,750	£9,995
06	56	Combo	1.3 cdti	Envoy	White	36120	£5495
07	07	Combo	1.3CDTi	Crew van, PAS,	White	8,700	£7,495
07	57	Movano	2.50CDTi	LWD	White	10,300	£10,995
08	08	Movano	2.5CDTI	MWB, Plylined	White	11,050	£10,495
08	08	Movano	2.5CDTI	LWB, Bulkhead	White	6,460	£11,995
08	58	Movano	2.5CDTI	MWB H/R	White	14,050	£10,995
08	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	Plylined, SWB	White	3,770	£8,795

PRE-REG VEHICLES

Year	Reg	Model	Eng		Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Corsavan	1.3	Sportive		Delivery	£9,995
09	09	Astravan	1.7CDTi	Sportive CDTi		Delivery	£11,495
08	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi	SWB, 90BHP	White	Delivery	£9,995

COMPANY VEHICLES

Year	Reg	Model	Eng		Colour	M/age	£
09	09	Vivaro	2.0D	LWB	White	TBA	£10,495
09	09	Vivaro	2.0	SWB	White	TBA	£9,995
09	09	Vivaro	2.0	LWB Double cab	White	TBA	£14,995

*All Commercial Vehicle prices exclude VAT at 15%

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Clio 2009 Expression 1.2 16v 75 A/C 5dr Mercury or Pearl Black	£11,115	**£1,577**	**£9,537**
Clio Dynamique 1.2 16V 5dr Mercury Silver	£12,665	**£2,000**	**£10,665**
Clio Tom Tom 1.2 16V 3dr Mercury Silver or Tempest	£13,645	**£2,850**	**£10,795**
Clio Tom Tom 1.2 16v 3dr WSR Body Kit, Mercury Silver or	£12,925	**£1,680**	**£11,245**
Clio Dynamique + dCi 86 3dr Extreme Blue	£13,260	**£1,900**	**£11,360**
Clio 2009 Renaultsport 200 3dr Glacier White 17" 5-Spoke Renaultsport Wheels, Anthracite, Cup Chassis, Red Painted Brake Callipers, Renaultsport Recaro Front Seats	£18,000	**£2,067**	**£15,933**
Clio Renaultsport 200 3dr Cup Chassis Pack, Renaultsport Recaro Seats, ID Paint, Cup Spoiler Alien Green	£19,595	**£2,100**	**£17,495**



New Renault Mégane

	MRRP	SAVE	MOTORLINE PRICE
Megane Hatch Extreme 1.6 100 Pearl Black or Mercury Silver Eclipse Grey or Twilight Blue	£13,645	**£2,350**	**£11,295**
Megane Hatch Expression dCi 106 Pearl Black 16" Alloy Wheels	£17,430	**£2,435**	**£14,995**
Mégane Coupé Dynamique 1.6 110 Glacier White	£16,995	**£1,575**	**£15,420**
Megane Dynamique Sport Tourer TCE 130 Eclipse Grey	£18,480	**£1,730**	**£16,750**



New Renault Kangoo

	MRRP	SAVE	MOTORLINE PRICE
Kangoo Car Expression dCi 86 Air Con, Electric Rear Windows, Innovative Roof Bars, Surf Blue	£14,645	**£1,450**	**£13,195**
Kangoo Car Expression dCi 106 Surf Blue, Body Coloured Bumpers, Auto Headlights & Wipers, Climate Control, Electric Heated Door Mirrors	£15,545	**£1,550**	**£13,995**



New Renault Grand Modus

	MRRP	SAVE	MOTORLINE PRICE
Grand Modus 1.2 TCE 100 Stone	£12,970	**£1,775**	**£11,195**
Grand Modus 1.5 dCi 86 Dynamique Ruby Red	£13,920	**£1,925**	**£11,995**



New Renault Scénic

	MRRP	SAVE	MOTORLINE PRICE
Scenic Tom Tom dCi 106 Stone	£18,450	**£1,955**	**£16,495**
Scénic Privilège TCE 130 Stone	£18,790	**£1,934**	**£16,856**
Grand Scenic Dynamique dCi 106 7 Seater, Stone	£20,940	**£2,045**	**£18,895**
Grand Scenic Expression 1.5 106 dCi, Tom Tom Navigation, Opal Blue	£19,040	**£1,745**	**£17,295**



New Renault Laguna

	MRRP	SAVE	MOTORLINE PRICE
Laguna Tourer Tom Tom dCi 110 Eclipse Grey	£20,305	**£3,010**	**£17,295**

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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Clio WSR 1.2 16V 75hp are: Urban 37.2 (7.6), Extra Urban 57.6(4.9), Combined 47.9 (5.9). The official CO2 emission figure is 139g/km

MRRP = Manufacturers Recommended Retail Price. Prices shown include delivery to dealer, number plates, 15% VAT, 12 months' Government road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. These offers apply to vehicles ordered and registered by 30th September 2009 and are available to retail customers only. These offers are correct at time of going to press.

DrivingReview



by STEVE LOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Fiat Grande Punto

Fiat offers a 'Sporting' chance to impress you



FIAT has had its ups and downs lately, but the Italian motor group is riding high on the Fiat 500 city car success.

The retro marvel has been a huge hit and dealers still report waiting lists. Punters don't mind waiting though in order to get their carefully chosen level of customising, which has made even this small car into a relatively profitable one.

But the hard yards for Fiat's revival were put in by the Panda city car, which underpins the 500 body, and then by the stylish Grand Punto supermini.

When you look at the conflicting demands of the space plus compactness supermini brief, the Grande Punto is a lesson in pushing the envelope and underlines how Fiat has rarely put a foot wrong since pretty much creating the type with the hatchback 1970s-vintage Fiat 127.

The Uno and Punto series followed, but commercial success outside the parochial home market was marred by dodgy reliability and rust problems.

Fortunately, there is little talk of this with the latest torch-bearer badged 'Punto', but usually called Grande Punto to distinguish it from its more compact predecessor.

This three or five-door design is the best yet and product of master supermini stylist and official 'Car Designer of the Century' Giorgetto Giugiaro, who also created the Uno, Panda, the original VW Golf and the Alfasud amongst many others, including supercars.

A 'Giugiaro' badge on the Punto's flank rightly gives credit for a design that echoes sports cars at the front, delivers a stylish upward window line to the side – without condemning those in the back to claustrophia – a spacious cabin and a neat yet practical rear end, with the lights raised above minor shunts.

It wears bold colours well; the banana yellow test car turned heads for the right reason and was a racy 1.4 16v T-Jet 120bhp Sporting three-door, looking good value at £12,755 with the standard Punto five-year warranty, even before discounts.

This version also delivers big bangs for modest bucks; the car's small capacity 1.4-litre turbocharged engine has low-down urge and hits 60mph in under nine seconds, with a typically Italian exhaust rasp.

On the other hand it averages well over 40mpg, though emissions are relatively high at 155g/km CO2 against a diesel equivalent so you pay £150/year in road tax.

There is also a 155bhp Abarth version at £13,800, though you might question spending a further £1,000 to shave less than a second off the Sporting's sprint time, even if it adds a prestigious Abarth scorpion badge.

However, I would take either of these big-hitting petrol engines over the Grand Punto diesel models; I like Fiat diesels for low-down pulling power, proven longevity and economy, but the relatively large weight of diesels in small cars can make performance models rather ponderous.

Where as the Sporting handles beautifully; in this guise the Grande Punto is both a practical and rapid supermini though the sporty ride quality and refinement can be wearing.

The cabin is spacious and pretty lively

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Cruze 1.8 LT: Urban – 30.4 (9.3), Extra-urban – 53.3 (5.3), Combined – 41.5 (6.8). CO_2 emissions 159g/km.

*Price of £11,320 relates to Cruze 1.6 S model only. Vehicle shown Cruze 1.8 LT and metallic paint available at extra cost of £400. †Customers will receive 3 years road fund licence supplied as a discount on the purchase price of the vehicle at the time of purchase based on the current level of road fund licence. Chevrolet will have no further liability for any future increase in road fund licence. 3 years/30,000 miles Fixed Price Service Package worth £249. The savings are against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th September 2009. Prices correct at time of press. At participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with scrappage or any other offers. (Chev80075)





though, with a practical boot and fold flat rear seats for van-like load-lugging when required.

Fiat has been perceptive too about where in-car electronics are going; its Blue & Me system using Bluetooth to 'talk' to new-tech gadgets and allow easy operation of an MP3 player or Apple iPod has enabled the Italian marque to steal a march with younger buyers.

A facelift has now also boosted interior quality which was off the pace against newer rivals, but there was never much wrong with its functionality and the Grande Punto remains the reliable 'engine room' of the Fiat line-up.

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DrivingPortfolio

FIAT GRANDE PUNTO SPORTING
(GRANDE PUNTO PRICES: £9,650-15,000)

Driving appeal	★★★★
Image	★★★★
Space	★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green	★★★★
Road tax	£150/year
Best rival	Ford Fiesta

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE:
the occasionally jittery ride of this Sporting model

NOT SURE:
I would want it in a dull colour. Buy your Grande Punto in yellow, red or black.

REALLY LIKE:
the way Fiat has created an affordable hatchback that stands apart from its rivals

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2005 05 SAAB 9-3 1.8T Linear Sport , 4 Doors, Automatic, Saloon, Petrol, 63,277 miles, Metallic Grey, 2 Owners. Cruise control, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Multi function steering wheel, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Full Electric Pack, Reverse parking aid, Part Service History, Air conditioning, Climate Control, Park distance control. **£7,495**

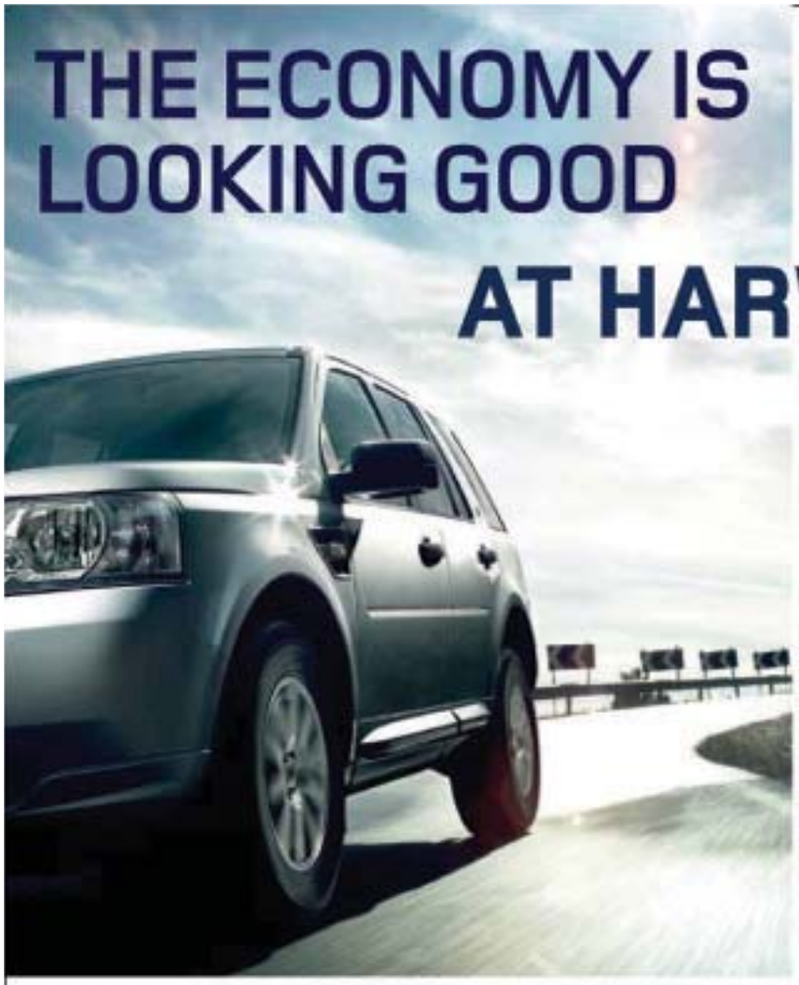
2002 52 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero , 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 69,000 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloy wheels, Full Electric Pack, Cruise control, Park distance control, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Metallic paintwork, Tinted glass. **£5,495**

2002 51 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3T , 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 105,000 miles, Blue, 3 Owners. ABS, Air conditionin, Full Electric Pack, Alloy wheels, Anti theft system, CD, Central locking, Computer, Multi function steering wheel, Remote central locking, Roof rails, Cloth upholstery, Full Service History, Immobiliser **£3,495**

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08 58 Subaru Outback 2.0 Diesel RE Travelled 10,000 miles, features economical 2.0 ltr boxer diesel engine, full leather interior, heated electric front seats, electric windows and full length sunroof, dual zone climate air con, cruise control, CD autochanger, safety of AWD, ABS and ESP, alloy wheels, trip computer, xenon headlights, front foglights. **£18,995**



08 58 Subaru Impreza WRX 330 STI Travelled 4,500 miles, features amazing 2.5 ltr 330 hp engine, 18" alloys, full factory body kit, fantastic handling with AWD, ABS and ESP, factory DVD Sat Nav, Recaro seats, xenon headlights, cruise control, trip computer, electric windows, climate, air con, CD player, finished in Midnight Blue superb vehicle. **£27,995**



08 58 Subaru Justy 1.0 R 5dr Travelled 6,000 miles, £35 a year to tax, features remote central locking, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows, rear park sensors, CD player, ABS brakes, trip computer..... **£7,495**



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ALFA-ROMERO

GTV SPORTS COUP, 1998, 98 (r) alfa romero 2.0 16v gtv sports coup, stunning metallic merlot coachwork with contrasting black half leather trim, just 89000 miles, large service history, long mot, long road tax, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, centrol locking, alarm, immobilizer, air bags, tinted glass, on board computor, abs brakes, alloy wheels, sony cd hi-fi, etc, etc. private plate included in sale (valued at £1200) stunning condition for age, a true classic alfa. 98 (r) alfa romero 2.0 gtv sports coup, low mileage, service history £2695, metallic merlot, £2695, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

AUDI

A4, 2.5tdi sport multitronic 163 bhp auto, 2004, carribean blue pearl with grey leather sport seats, 96000 miles, £10850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A4, S4 Quattro cabriolet, rv04uhh, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, power steering, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, auto lighting, front fog lamps, electric windows, power hood, electric mirrors, dual climate zones, cd player, radio, 18'' alloys, 4x4, red, 53000 miles, £13999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TT, QUATTRO 1.8 with grey leather, lt03vsu, remote alarm, remote central locking, full leather, heated seats, sports seats, power steering, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 18'' alloys, 4x4, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, moro blue metallic, 50000 miles, £8995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

AZURE, V8 CONV AUTO SAT NAV, sn56ktx, only 15455 miles, 56 plate bentley, sat nav, ultrasonic park distance control with reversing camera, manufacturers service history, magnolia hide leather upholstery, blue roof, 19'' upgraded alloys, two tone leather steering wheel, bentley marque badges to waistrails and inset chrome strip, french navy carpets, chromed door mirrpr caps, drilled aluminium foot pedals, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front + rear parking distance control, front fog-lights, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-thigh support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, titanium silver, £15995, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

BMW

1 Series, 120d ES 5dr, cf05fxg, remote central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, abs, air bag, colour coded body, rear wash/wipe, cd player, climate control, electric mirrors, electric windows, 16'' alloys, red, 65000 miles, £8499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 118d Edition ES, charlie, only 5800 miles, manufacturers pdi, upgraded alloys, rain sensitive windscreen, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, runflat tyres, comfort pack, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front + rear parking distance control, front fog-lights, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-thigh support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, titanium silver, £15995, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325ci SE Auto, av53ltu, full leather, air conditioning, climate control, electric seats, front fog lamps, parking sensor, remote central locking, remote alarm, centre armrest, rear headrests, electric windows, electric handbrake, abs, multi-disc cd player, radio cassette, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, trip computer, traction control, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, auto-dip rearview, alloy wheels, black, 57600 miles, £9995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318ci SE, ap03 mhu, air conditioning, climate control, parking sensor, power steering, abs, rear headrests, front fog lamps, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric windows, electric mirrors, traction control, cd player, radio, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, trip computer, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, alloy wheels, silver, 84000 miles, £6995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318i SE, ae52 vln, air conditioning, climate control, remote central locking, remote alarm, parking sensor, abs, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, rear headrests, centre armrest, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, traction control, radio cassette, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, auto-dip rearview, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, front fog lamps, alloy wheels, blue, 64800 miles, £6695, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 525d m sport auto, 2005, titanium silver met with black alcantera and leath, 75000 miles, £15850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 523 i M Sport auto with SAT NAV, lv05xxb, remote alarm, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, heated seats, rear headrests, colour satnav, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, parking sensor, power steering, traction control, air bag, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, climate control, cd player, dvd player, multi-disc cd player, radio, steering wheel audio controls, headlamp jetwash, comms pack, 18'' alloys, front and rear parking sensors, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, silver grey metallic, 59000 miles, £15995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

X5, 4.8is EXCLUSIVE AUTO SAT NAV, dx06vvb, 4x4, only 62576 miles, manufacturers service history, sat nav, ecru individual nappa leather upholstery, upgraded alloys, xenon headlamps, adjustable suspension, rain sensitive windscreen, headlamp washer package, areosport spoilers, electric folding wing mirrors, front comfort seats, rear air con, logic 7 loudspeaker system, sun protection glass, bmw assist, dynamic stability control, downhill descent, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, electric memory seats, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, halo headlamps, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoliers, m-tech steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-thigh support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehciles over 36 months old & comes complete with a comprehensive parts + labour warranty *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World ** big enough to cope, small enough to care**, stratus grey, £21994, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, Lt 5dr, ex58ays, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, power steering, air conditioning, electric front windows, trip computer, cd player, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, mp3 player, child locks, cloth upholstery, isofix, power steering, air conditioning, 14'' alloys, tiltable steering column, front seatbelt pretensioners, height adjustable front seatbelts, door courtesy lamps, leather steering wheel and gear knob, 3 point rear seatbelts x3, space saver spare wheel, passenger seat side pocket, 60/40 split folding rear seat, headlamp levelling, lidded glovebox, black finish on b pillars, remote fuel cap release, height adjustable driver's seat, body colour door handles, front door pockets, 6 speakers, adjustable headrests, variable intermittent front wash/wipe, driver/passenger sunvisors and vanity mirrors, front cupholders, tinted glass all round, 2 front seat back pockets, driver sunglasses holder, rear seat back table top, metallic interior trim, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, body coloured door mirrors, 15'' alloy wheels, side window demist vents, body coloured bumpers, roof spoiler, steering wheel mounted audio controls, grey, 4000 miles, £7995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

AVEO, Lt, 54314, 15'' alloys, blue, 1800 miles, £7995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX, gu58ncx, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, traction control, air conditioning, cd player, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, adjustable steering column, automatic electric windows, radio, folding rear seats, head restraints, cloth upholstery, isofix, air conditioning, tinted glass, cigar lighter, front seatbelt pretensioners, space saver spare wheel, interior light with delay, body colour electric adjustable heated door mirrors, tachometer, front passenger grab handle, remote fuel cap release, body colour bumpers, luggage compartment lighting, air filtration, 15'' alloy wheels, luggage cover, luggage net, variable front intermittent wipers, pas, rear grab handles, towing equipment, front map lights, body coloured bodyside mouldings, high mounted stop lamp, windscreen aerial, illuminated glovebox with lock, instrument panel light dimmer, reclining front seats, front ashtray, driver's side sunvisor/concealed vanity mirror, ignition key in warning chime, chrome interior door handles, driver's lumbar support, 3 rear 3 point seatbelts with elr, 4 spoke leather steering wheel, passenger under seat tray, driver's footrest, height adjustable front seatbelts, keyless entry system, digital clock, two auxiliary power outlets, front and rear map pockets, 6 speakers, rear coat hook, passenger sunvisor with concealed vanity mirror, passenger seat side pocket, rear window demister with timer, driver sunglasses holder, metallic-look fascia, headlamp levelling, centre room lamp, driver seatbelt warning indicator, battery saver function, driver/passenger front seatback pockets, driver seat height adjust, body colour door/boot handles, knee protector, floor covering carpet with heel mat, audio remote control in steering wheel, tailgate opening grip handle with actuator, shopping hook, metallic paint instrument panel, leather gear knob, sunvisor with ticket holder, rear heating vent, floor net, ashtray light, front centre armrest with deposit box, front side impact pad door trim, cool box in glove compartment, one-touch close driver's window, black, 4000 miles, £7495, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

CROSSFIRE, 3.2 Auto, 2004, blue met, 42000 miles, £11798, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

VOYAGER, SE, lv06 uvb, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, powered folding mirrors, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, privacy glass, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, cd player, radio, twin air bags, curtain airbags, silver, 22100 miles, £7995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CITROEN

BERLINGO, Multispace Forte, lx55oob, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, adjustable steering column, power steering, abs, child locks, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric front windows, radio cassette, visit our website for details of 50 simiIAR Cars. ice blue metallic, 11000 miles, £5490, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 600LXD Refrigerated Van, kr54rhe, central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, barn doors, abs, air bag, power steering, radio, gah equipment. grp insulation. white, 17000 miles, £5495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

C2, 1.4 HDI SX, gk56psx, air conditioning, anti-lock brakes, atomic velour interior, audio steering wheel mounted controls, body coloured bumpers, driver seat height adjustment, driver, passenger and front side air bags, electricdoor mirrors, electronic brake force distribution, front electric windows, front fog lights, front/rear head restraints, immobiliser, power-assisted steering, radio/cd, rake/reach adjustable steering column/wheel, remote central door locking, spare wheel, speakers, black metallic, 38540 miles, £6285, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

C3, SX 5dr, lv55gsz, remote central locking, immobiliser, velour trim, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, aluminium silver, 22000 miles, £5699, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RELAY, 1100 2.0 HDi Refrigerated Chiller, lv05dxt, grp lined. gah fridge. over fifty fridge vans in stock. www.BHRV.co.uk, white, 60000 miles, £5995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

XSARA, PICASSO SX HDi, gf52 wwd, air conditioning, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, cd player, radio, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, green, 51200 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

LEGANZA, cdx auto, 1998, silver, 80000 miles, £1495, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

MATIZ, SE 5dr, gl04zjy, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, power steering, rear wash/wipe, stereo, head restraints, folding rear seats, twin air bags, bright blue, 29000 miles, £2699, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FIAT

DOBLO, 8v Dynamic Hr, yx57pwn, grey, 1700 miles, £7495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.9 Multijet Dynamic 5dr [120] Diesel Estate, rv58jvf, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, alloy wheels, radio/cd, trip computer, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, 3x3 point rear seat belts, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, height adjustable drivers seat, rear headrests, folding rear seats, body coloured bumpers, service indicator, space saver spare wheel, lumbar support, immobiliser, front armrest, front head restraints, beige metallic, 17250 miles, £8998, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, ea06xop, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, alloy wheels, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, 3x3 point rear seat belts, body coloured bumpers, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, cloth seat trim, front head restraints, folding rear seats, service indicator, full size spare wheel, immobiliser, isofix child seat anchor points, rear armrest, crossover black metallic, 26950 miles, £6996, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

PUNTO, ELX 16v Speedgear 5dr auto, y813mub, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, stereo, gold, 50000 miles, £2999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.8 TDCi Zetec, 2009, vision, 0 miles, £13795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Freedom 16v 5dr, gj56 zgk, air conditioning, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote alarm, remote central locking, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, twin air bags, trip computer, alloy wheels, black, 43800 miles, £6495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [82], mt58bbz, abs, air conditioning, alloy wheels, passenger airbag, radio/cd, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, heated door mirrors, isofix child seat anchor points, remote central locking, steering wheel rake adjustment, steering wheel reach adjustment, trip computer. insurance group:4, please call les bellchambers for further details and offers. blue, 10736 miles, £11995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.25 Zetec 5dr [82], nu59reg, foglights. 0 miles, £15000, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0 Titanium 5dr Auto, ea58xey, air conditioning, alloy wheels, electric windows, side airbags, radio/cd, 2nd remote key, privacy glass, rear park assist, sony cd player, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, remote locking. insurance group:10, red, 8454 miles, £13990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

GALAXY, Zetec TDi, eg03vmy, remote central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, 15'' alloys, blue, 99000 miles, £3999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR 2WD, ek09usn, metallic vision, dvd touch screen navigation, titanium appearance pack, 18 alloys, titanium convenience pack, ford direct vehicle, 2yrs roadside assistance, abs, power converter, detachable tow bar, alloy wheels, cruise control, front armrest, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, rear armrest, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, alarm, audio remote control, body coloured bumpers, drivers airbag, electricdoor mirrors, front electric windows, front fog lights, front head restraints, heated door mirrors, height adjustable drivers seat, isofix child seat anchor points, pas, rear electric windows, rear wiper, remote central locking, solid paint, steerin, blue, 6880 miles, £21495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

HONDA

CIVIC, 1.8 I-VTEC TYPE S 3DR, ao09fkb, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, [62]climate control, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control.. insurance group:9, silver, 1300 miles, £13895, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CR-V, I-VTEC Executive, eo56dvj, abs, air bag, immobiliser, alarm, air conditioning, climate control, cruise control, electric windows, sunroof, cd player, satellite navigation, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, rear headrests, automatic electric windows, privacy glass, rear armrest, isofix, 16'' alloys, 4x4, pas, roof mounted aerial, visible vehicle identification number, illuminated glovebox, digital clock, side impact protection beams, body colour bumpers, elec heated + adjust door mirrors, internally adjust headlights, tonneau cover, front headrests, 16'' alloy wheels, underfloor storage system in load area, tachometer, leather multi function steering wheel, front passenger seat undertray, body colour door mirrors, external temperature gauge, tie down hooks in luggage area, front and rear speakers, tilt adjustable steering wheel, reclining rear seats, pollen filter, rear mudflaps, lockable glovebox, driver's seat armrest, full size spare wheel, driver/passenger front seatback pockets, hard spare wheel cover, heated front seats, 12v socket in rear of vehicle, chrome door handles, driver/passenger sunvisors and lidded vanity mirrors, driver seat height adjust, passenger armrest, high level rear brake light, body colour side bump strips, 60/40 split fold rear seat back, steering wheel mounted controls, sliding rear seats, fuel filler release, high security audio, 5 x 3 point seatbelts, front interior welcome light, remote glass hatch release, boot integrated picnic table, tweeters, vechicle stability assist, folding front centre storage tray, front skid plate, white dashboard illumination, illuminated ignition switch, chrome tailpipe finisher, drivers footrest, headlamp on reminder, leather and alloy gearknob, honda super locks, front mudguards, remote keyless entry, 3 point height adj front seatbelts + pretensioners, front and rear cupholders, leather upholstery, headlight washers, grey, 18000 miles, £14995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

CR-V, I-VTEC SE Sport, sl04 kbp, air conditioning, power steering, abs, cd player, radio, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric sunroof, twin air bags, alloy wheels, 4x4, grey, 63400 miles, £7495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

JAZZ, Dsi SE 5dr, lt06hde, 15'' alloys, black, 16000 miles, £8495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

ACCENT, Si 3dr, v963 mnm, power steering, air bag, sunroof, electric front windows, radio cassette, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, silver, 55100 miles, £1695, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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52 REG ROVER 75 1.8 CONNOISSEUR METALLIC WHITE GOLD, 19500 MILES £3999
02/02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA 50000 MILES, METALLIC MACHINE SILVER £3999
03/53 FORD MONDEO HATCHBACK 1.8 METALLIC BLUE, 52000 MILES £4999
05/05 VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.2i SXI 4DR STAR SILVER, 65000 £4999
04/04 FORD FIESTA 1.25LX 5DR METALIC OYSTER SILVER, 18000 MILES £5499
06/56 FORD KA 1.3i COLLECTION (70) 17000 MILES £5549
05/54 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 TD HDI 90 SE 5DR AC 65000, MERCURY GREY £5999
06/06 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 16V SPORT 3DR SILVER, 17000 MILES £6999
07/07 FORD MONDEO 1.8 EDGE 5DR 45000 MILES £6999
07/07 FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX 5DR 40000 MILES £6999
07/57 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.8 ZETEC 5DR CLIMATE 42000 MILES £6999
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07/57 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 STYLE CLIMATE 46000 MILES £6999
06/06 FORD FUSION 1.6 19236 MILES, METALLIC BLUE £7499
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07/07 FORD MONDEO 2.0 ZETEC 5DR METALLIC INK BLUE, 11000 MILES £8999
06/06 FORD FOCUS 1.6 GHIA 13000 MILES £8999
07/07 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6TDCI 43000 MILES £8999
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07/57 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6TDCI ZETEC 42000 MILES £9999
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07/57 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCI TITANIUM 43000 MILES £10999
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04/54 MERCEDES E-CLASS E270 CDI AVANTGARDE 4DR TIPTRONIC AUTO 65000 MILES £11499
08/58 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC BLACK, 15000 MILES £11999
08/58 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6ZETEC 5DR 16000 MILES £11999
07/07 VW SHARAN 1.9TDI DIESEL AUTO 42245 MILES £11999
09/58 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.4TDCI STYLE+ BLACK, 10000 MILES £12299
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MATRIX, Gsi Auto, sm05 ztz, air conditioning, cd player, radio, power steering, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, roof rails, central locking, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, alloy wheels, silver, 21200 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

ISUZU

RODEO, Jiffy Hot & Cold Catering Truck, vx06xey, jiffy pica hot & cold snack wagon. super large rear oven. super large fridge display area. hand wash. silver, 34000 miles, £13995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

IVECO

CARGO, Tector 75E17 Refrigerated Freezer Chiller Box, mk02kxu, thermo king md11 max diesel electric fridge. barn rear doors. pallet side door. padded moveable partition. don bur body. tuck away tail lift. mot & tax. lex compliant. p/x to clear. blue & white, 0 miles, £4495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

JAGUAR

X-TYPE, S D, lg55lfz, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, half leather, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, electric mirrors, electric windows, climate control, cd player, steering wheel audio controls, alloy wheels, visit our website for details of 50 simillAR Cars. black, 59000 miles, £8990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, 2.0D SPORT PREMIUM 4DR, bp54bzk, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, [62]climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, headlight washers, heated seats, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control.. insurance group:14, silver, 37000 miles, £9975, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

JEEP

CHEROKEE, 2.8 CRD LIMITED 5DR AUTO, ko06awz, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control.. insurance group:13, black, 51200 miles, £9495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

KIA

MAGENTIS, GS Crdi, fg56 hvn, air conditioning, abs, power steering, twin air bags, curtain airbags, cd player, radio, electric windows, electric mirrors, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, alloy wheels, black, 23100 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PICANTO, LX 5dr, gj06yfs, abs, air bag, alarm, central locking, remote central locking, air conditioning, electric front windows, electric windows, rear wash/wipe, automatic electric windows, mp3 player, child locks, head restraints, cloth upholstery, isofix, air conditioning, heated door mirrors, pas, rear grab handles, tinted glass, side impact protection, tachometer, digital clock, glovebox, 14'' steel wheels, body colour door handles, body colour bumpers, front console with cup holder, front passenger grab handle, body colour side mouldings, variable front intermittent wipers, security window etching, 60/40 split fold rear seat back, colour keyed tailgate garnish, passenger under seat tray, front room lamp, front door map pockets, roof mounted aerial, 4 speed front ventilation fan, 3 point rear seatbelts x3, 4 speakers, heated rear window, body colour electric adjustable door mirrors, passenger seat side pocket, front ashtray and cigar lighter, detachable audio security panel, driver/passenger vanity mirrors with covers, load area light, leather steering wheel and gear knob, driver's seatback pocket, tilt adjustable steering wheel, height adjustable front seatbelts + pretensioners, full wheel covers, remote fuel flap release, load area cover, sunglasses storage, body colour radiator grille, instant mobility system, high level rear brake light, coat hooks, cabin air filter, sliding sunvisors, aluminium silver, 32000 miles, £5495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

RIO, GS 5dr, fe08emk, abs, air bag, immobiliser, central locking, air conditioning, electric front windows, electric windows, rear wash/wipe, automatic electric windows, mp3 player, child locks, head restraints, cloth upholstery, isofix, air conditioning, pas, tinted glass, 4 speakers, heated rear window, door ajar warning, roof mounted aerial, tachometer, digital clock, front ashtray, glovebox, 14'' steel wheels, height adjustable driver's seat, body colour bumpers, remote fuel flap release, 2 speed wipers+variable intermittent wipe, illuminated cigarette lighter, load area light, front seatbelt pretensioners, driver seatbelt warning indicator, low fuel warning light, temporary spare wheel, internally adjustable door mirrors, tilt adjustable steering wheel, removable security panel, full wheel covers, high level rear brake light, cabin air filter, front door map pockets, front/rear assist grips with coat hook, driver/passenger vanity mirrors with covers, 12v accessory power point in centre console, 3 rear 3 point seatbelts, cupholders in centre console, 4 speed front ventilation fan, sliding sunvisors, 60/40 split rear seats, front and rear interior lamps, luggage board and shelf trim cover, luggage restraint rings in luggage area, blue, 8000 miles, £7995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

SPORTAGE, Xse, wx02 vzt, air conditioning, power steering, abs, air bag, remote central locking, remote alarm, cloth upholstery, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, electric windows, electric mirrors, radio cassette, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 66700 miles, £3795, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

LAMBORGHINI

DIABLO, 1998, purple metallic with cream leather, 57000 miles, £59950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 110 TDi County Station Wagon, p150plw, power steering, tow pack, 4x4, 9 seater. road tax(plg) is £190 per year. white, 83000 miles, £10995, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY, Landmark TD5, gj54 fwu, full leather, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric windows, electric mirrors, parking sensor, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, roof rails, front fog lamps, powered folding mirrors, heated seats, twin air bags, electric sunroof, triple sunroofs, air conditioning, climate control, radio cassette, multi-disc cd player, abs, power steering, alloy wheels, 4x4, green, 79400 miles, £11995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, r499rdy, remote central locking, power steering, tow pack, radio cassette, alloy wheels, 4x4, genuine camel event vehicle. roolbar, winch, roof light pod and rack etc. only 8, 600 kilometres. sandglow yellow, 8600 miles, £12995, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER SPORT, rv06ebf, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, leather upholstery, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, multi function steering wheel, park distance control, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:14, silver, 67000 miles, £25495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LDV

MAXUS, Lwb 3.5/95 Refrigerated Chiller, bu07dkd, side load door, dual passenger seat, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, immobiliser, power steering, hubbard fridge. grp lined. electric standby available if required. white, 24000 miles, £8995, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

LEXUS

IS, 200 SE, av54 bxy, air conditioning, climate control, full leather, parking sensor, front fog lamps, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear headrests, electric seats, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, heated seats, electric windows, electric mirrors, powered folding mirrors, electric sunroof, traction control, radio cassette, multi-disc cd player, twin air bags, curtain airbags, abs, auto lighting, alloy wheels, silver, 20100 miles, £8995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

RX, 300 SE Auto, eo04 uud, air conditioning, climate control, full leather, front fog lamps, roof rails, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric seats, heated seats, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric windows, electric mirrors, cruise control, powered folding mirrors, abs, power steering, electric sunroof, auto-dip rearview, trip computer, twin air bags, side air bags, curtain airbags, parking sensor, alloy wheels, 4x4, grey, 76800 miles, £11995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MAZDA

323, GXI D 5dr, ow52hsl, central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, stereo, green, 94000 miles, £2999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

MAZDA2, 2 S 5dr, lv04umj, abs, air bag, immobiliser, alarm, central locking, remote central locking, power steering, cd player, brake assist, radio, cloth upholstery, isofix, black door handles, height adjustable front headrests, driver/passenger sunvisors and lidded vanity mirrors, headlamp levelling, body colour bumpers, 14'' steel wheels with full wheel covers, audio remote control in steering wheel, front/rear assist grips, projector headlamps, height adjustable rear seatbelts, 2 speakers, body colour side mouldings, full size spare wheel, height adjustable steering wheel, height adjustable front seatbelts, heated rear window, retractable luggage cover, floor mounted centre storage with cupholders, three 3 point rear seatbelts, black manually adjustable door mirrors, c-pillar black out, driver's seat height adjustment, header mounted/front door operated courtesy light, 2 speed tailgate wash/wipe, deadlocks, audible lights on warning, high mounted stop lamp, front and rear storage pockets, blue, 23000 miles, £4695, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

MERCEDES BENZ

A CLASS, A140 Classic facelift model LWB, km52zdl, remote central locking, remote alarm, folding rear seats, rear headrests, power steering, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, long wheelbase, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, pacific blue metallic, 49000 miles, £4995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

A CLASS, A180 CDI Diesel Avantgarde SE new shape 32000 mls, ky55vvd, remote alarm, remote central locking, half leather, centre armrest, folding rear seats, rear headrests, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, traction control, abs, isofix, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, steering wheel audio controls, 16'' alloys, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, cosmos black metallic, 32000 miles, £9995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

A140, Saloon long Classic, 2003, night black, 49284 miles, £5998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

A150, 3dr Classic SE, 2009, mountain grey metallic, 6000 miles, £12998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

B CLASS, B200 2.0 CDI Diesel SE with full leather, fl06onv, remote alarm, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, folding rear seats, rear headrests, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, traction control, abs, isofix, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, steering wheel audio controls, 16'' alloys, full leather trim, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, cosmos black metallic, 34000 miles, £12995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

C CLASS, C180 K Sport Edition facelift model auto, ly56ahc, alarm, remote alarm, remote central locking, full leather, centre armrest, electric seats, rear headrests, cruise control, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, traction control, abs, multiple airbags, auto lighting, colour coded body, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, powered folding mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, steering wheel audio controls, 17'' alloys, sport edition, always over 60 mercedes-benz cars in stock! we will not be beaten on price! fully fsA regulated, aluminium silver, 28000 miles, £14995, Welling, 0208 8548037 (TRADE)

VITO, 120 CDI 3+3 LWB DUALINER SPORT AUTO, sj08xeh, privacy glass, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, 3-person rear seat, twin sliding doors, tailgate, dual passenger seat, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, colour coded body, multiple airbags, adjustable steering column, multi-function steering wheel, power steering, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, immobiliser, head restraints, child locks, sports seats, centre armrest, folding rear seats, rear armrest, rear headrests, air bag, abs, 17'' alloys, aluminium silver, 36000 miles, £17745, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

VITO, 111 CDI LWB, ck08oej, adjustable steering column, power steering, twin sliding doors, dual passenger seat, rear wash/wipe, cd player, tailgate, abs, air bag, electric windows, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, ply-lined, bulkhead, black, 14000 miles, £12495, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 3dr Auto, ra04 fsx, power steering, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, front fog lamps, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric sunroof, twin air bags, side air bags, alloy wheels, gold, 40700 miles, £7995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6 3dr, lb08uaw, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, remote locking. insurance group:8, silver, 4000 miles, £12495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

ONE, 1.4 3DR, gf57gjj, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:5, white, 24780 miles, £10795, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MITSUBISHI

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, gk08ycg, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving_, silver, 9000 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr CVT, lx08zrf, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, saving, blue, 6800 miles, £11995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

SHOGUN, 3.2 DI-D Elegance 5dr Auto, lv56hpk, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, central locking, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, electric sunroof, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, immobiliser, navigation system, passenger airbag, rear armrest, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:16, grey, 24750 miles, £14995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

NISSAN

ALMERA, Tino SE, ml02 arz, air conditioning, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, abs, power steering, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cd player, radio, twin air bags, electric sunroof, blue, 77400 miles, £2995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

MICRA, S 3dr, y512xke, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, blue, 24000 miles, £2699, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

QASHQAI, 1.5dCi ACENTA 4x2, nc07wzb, cloth, carbon, 16'' alloy wheels, 3 rear headrests, 6 cd autochanger, abs with ebd and brake assist, active front headrest system, alarm, automatic rain sensing wipers, bluetooth integration, body coloured door handles, body coloured door mirrors, climate control air conditioning, cruise control, drive computer, electric heated door mirrors, electric windows, engine immobiliser, front fog lamps, front side and curtain airbags, headlamp-on buzzer, height adjustable driver's seat, rear park system, remote central locking, tilt adjustable steering wheel, faded denim, 7000 miles, £15495.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

206, GTi HDi 3dr, kp54zcz, immobiliser, remote central locking, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, cd player, radio, 15'' alloys, black, 42000 miles, £5999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

307, LX 5dr, gn02 dxp, air conditioning, abs, power steering, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, remote central locking, remote alarm, electric front windows, electric mirrors, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, radio cassette, curtain airbags, silver, 43400 miles, £3995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

996, cabriolet, ey04fnn, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, lumbar support, parking sensor, power steering, satellite navigation, traction control, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, factory hard top, front fog lamps, metallic paintwork, xenon headlamps, electric mirrors, electric windows, power hood, climate control, cd player, radio, 19'' alloys, aluminium silver, 48000 miles, £29999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

RENAULT

CLIO, Si Dti 5dr, x792hkk, remote central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric windows, cd player, sunroof, 15'' alloys, blue, 30000 miles, £2999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

CLIO, Expression 16v 3dr, gk58owg, blue, 750 miles, £9495, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

SAAB

9-3, SE Turbo Eco, w233ppg, remote central locking, immobiliser, full leather, head restraints, power steering, air bag, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, air conditioning, power hood, electric mirrors, electric windows, cd player, 16'' alloys, metallic red, 47000 miles, £4499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SEAT

LEON, S, kl02 bkx, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, electric front windows, cd player, radio, twin air bags, alloy wheels, grey, 54500 miles, £3495, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

TOLEDO 1.9 SE TDI, 2002 02, 2002 0202 (02) seat toledo 1.9 se turbo diesel tdi(110) 4 door, stunning metallic blue coachwork with black fleck cloth trim, service history, only 73000 miles, traction control, power steering, abs brakes, electric windows, electric mirrors, air conditioning, multiple air bags, remote central locking, alarm immobilizer, original cd hi-fi, alloy wheels, very nice condition. low tax group, fantastic mpg, low mileage seat toledo turbo diesel low miles-s/history only £3695, metallic blue, £3695, Folkestone, 01303 244244 (TRADE)

SUBARU

IMPREZA, Wrx Turbo Awd, wn51ugj, power steering, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, radio, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, 17'' alloys, 4x4, electric blue met. 92000 miles, £4999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SUZUKI

GRAND VITARA, x618lbj, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, , air conditioning, cd player, central locking, folding rear seats, rear headrests, adjustable steering column, side steps, electric mirrors, 4x4, aluminium silver, 84000 miles, £2999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TOYOTA

COROLLA, Verso T Spirit VVT-I, nh04cca, remote central locking, immobiliser, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, dvd player, abs, twin air bags, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, electric mirrors, electric windows, air conditioning, cd player, 16'' alloys, aluminium silver, 56000 miles, £7499, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

COROLLA, T3 Colour Collection VVT-I 5dr Auto, ao56 uas, air conditioning, climate control, power steering, abs, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, centre armrest, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin air bags, curtain airbags, alloy wheels, black, 25900 miles, £8695, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

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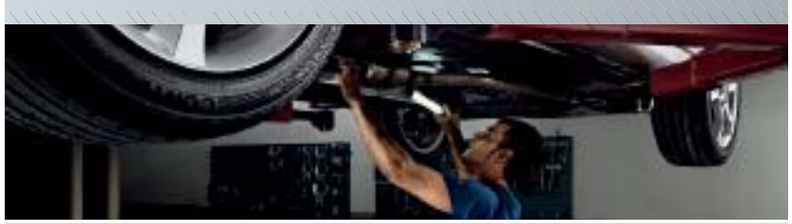
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The crowning glory of pub's green award



GREEN OASIS: The Rose and Crown at Selling is owned by Tim Robinson, inset

A VILLAGE pub has been toasting its success since being named the Kent Environment Business of the Year 2009 at an awards ceremony.

The Rose and Crown at Selling, near Faversham, saw off stiff competition to land the prize at the Environment Awards for Kent Business, at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park.

The judges were particularly impressed with the way the owners encourage other local businesses to be as sustainable as the pub itself.

Over the last two years, staff at the Rose and Crown have reduced waste by 70 per cent, which means that 80,000 litres of waste has been recycled rather than going to landfill.

Electricity usage has been reduced by 19.2 per cent, which equates to a saving of nine tonnes of carbon. By including green alternatives in the company's business plan, gross profit margins have increased six to nine per cent year on year.

Rose and Crown owner Tim Robinson said: "It's fantastic that our efforts are of a high enough standard to be recognised. It's something we're very proud of. It shows that no matter how small you are, your actions count and are appreciated by a wider audience."

Presenting the award, Cllr Nick Chard, Kent County Council's cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, said: "It's important as we come out of recession that we continue to celebrate the achievements of Kent businesses.

"That's one of the main reasons for these awards and this year we've had some outstanding entries. It's equally important to highlight environmental best practice as a way of achieving efficiency and savings."

Five theme winners were chosen from a shortlist of 12. Awards were given to: Maidstone Leisure Centre (for environmental engagement); Ashford-based GSE Haulage (innovative partnerships); H+H UK, based in Borough Green, (achievements in resource efficiency), Dover-based John Shirley Ltd (commitment to the environment); and Tunbridge Wells-based Real Hair and Beauty (sustainable business management).

Alex Green, sustainable business programme manager at KCC, organisers of the awards, said: "This year saw a diverse range of businesses entering and we have been particularly impressed with the standard of entries.

"This was the first new-look ceremony, which means that although there were fewer awards, we are placing more value on each. We hope those who won will do the same."

The evening was hosted by former BBC South East Today presenter Geoff Clark, in his first public appearance since leaving the corporation a month before his contract ended.

Wanted: nominations for outstanding leadership

KNOW a director who deserves special recognition? Then now might be the time to nominate them for an award.

The Kent branch of the Institute of Directors (IoD) is inviting anyone who has been impressed by the leadership of a director in the last year to nominate them for the IoD South Director of the Year Awards.

Kent has previously had two winners: Jonathan Neame, of Shepherd Neame in Faversham; and Guy Whitehead, of Armourcoat, Sevenoaks.

At the recent launch of the 2009 awards, IoD regional director Rodger Broad said: "These are among the most prestigious trophies any director can win. With only London and the south east making net contributions to the Exchequer, the ability to recognise the role of the business leaders who make this possible has never been more important.

"We are looking for outstanding leaders, whether they are members of the IoD or not, as these awards recognise and celebrate dynamic leadership across the whole region."

There will be two new categories this year: the New Start Business Award for businesses less than five years old; and International Director of the Year.

Sponsors include HSBC, UKTI, Business Link, the London Stock Exchange and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Categories are for people leading businesses at all stages of growth and include the Chairman's Award, which recognises the achievements of leaders in not-for-profit organisations such as housing associations and charities.

For details on how to nominate, see www.iod.com/south/awards.

The deadline for entries is November 20, with the ceremony taking place on March 23, next year.

IoD



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FRUITS DE MER: Aerial view of Boulogne harbour, showing the new Hub Port terminal which became operational last weekend

Hub keeps Channel at centre of events

By **RACHEL MCATHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE future of the cross-Channel travel industry has been secured, according to officials, thanks to a new multi-million-pound port in Boulogne.

Following the launch of its new high-speed ferry service earlier this year, LD Lines opened its new Hub Port terminal last weekend.

The catamaran, Norman Arrow, has been whizzing between Dover and Boulogne in an hour throughout the summer, snipping 45 minutes off conventional ferry times.

Bosses say the new terminal will be able to accommodate even more travellers than before, while providing the fastest way to get to and from Kent and France above the water.

Nick Stevens, spokesman for LD Lines, said it will make a huge difference to cross Channel business for both regions.

"The high-speed catamaran has already opened up vast opportunities for people in France to come to Kent for day trips and short breaks," he said.

"The new terminal now has a greater capacity to deal with the hoped increased in tourism and freight traffic. It will also mean more potential for Boulogne to become a major port.



ON THE MOVE: LD Lines' Norman Arrow takes just an hour to cross the Channel

"It is certainly a place where people have always wanted to go, more so than other destinations. This new terminal really does put Boulogne in a different league and gives far more potential to the port and town."

He said the new terminal will not only bring Boulogne up to date with demand, but also continue to put the Port of Dover at the forefront of European travel.

"Dover port is the lifeblood of the town and a vital part of the county and country's economy," he said.

"Across the Channel, the port at Boulogne was left behind Calais, but its potential has never been in doubt.

"Now there is the infrastructure to move it on, it is a fantastic opportunity for both sides."

Currently, the high-speed ferry operates four return sailings a day and the company hopes to have five up and running next year.

Each catamaran can carry 1,200 passengers, 30 lorries and 195 cars.

It is the first to be able to carry freight, although if no trucks are on board it can also take over 400 cars.

The new port cost 45 million euros to build and covers 20 hectares.

It also contains a 2,400-ton linkspan, which can be moved sideways to accommodate conventional ships and fast ferries. A second is set to be added next year.

Operations were transferred from the Gare Martime berth last weekend.

Boulogne chamber of commerce president, Francis Leroy, said: "The new Hub Port represents a significant development for the future of the port of Boulogne and confirms our determination to regenerate the port's activities by becoming a major player in the cross-Channel trade, particularly in the freight market."

Boulogne's history as a major passenger ferry port dates back to the late 1800s and in particular from the mid 1900s to late 1980s it was the top French destination.

LD Lines introduced their ferry service to Boulogne after SpeedFerries went into administration last year.

Synchronica seeks to profit as revenues keep rising

TECHNOLOGY firm Synchronica has seen revenues rocket seven-fold in the first half of this year – but it is still making losses.

However, bosses at the Tunbridge Wells firm say they are delighted with the upturn in business and say they are on track to becoming profitable.

Synchronica plc, the AIM-listed mobile email and synchronisation provider, delivered interim results for the six months ending June 30, on Tuesday. Key figures saw revenues rise from £0.19 million during the same period in 2008 to £1.33m.

Anticipation

Administrative costs rose by 15 per cent to £3.34m in anticipation of future growth, while the operating loss dipped by 14 per cent to £2.34m. Loss before tax was down 12 per cent to £2.49m.

Carsten Brinkschulte, CEO of Synchronica, said, "Given the large potential of our expanding target markets, our growing network of resellers worldwide, our strong pipeline of prospects, and the launch of the low-cost mobile devices which is on track for release later this year, the board believes the growth prospects for the company are excellent and we are confident of meeting market expectations for the full year as we move towards sustainable profitability the following year."

Pushed to brink by domino effect

PUTTING pressure on suppliers for longer payment terms in an attempt to boost cash flow is not the answer during the economic downturn, a business information firm has claimed.

It follows research from the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) revealing small businesses in the UK are waiting up to four months for invoices to be paid by big brand names.

Neil Munroe, external affairs director at Equifax, said: "Delaying payments can set off a domino effect which could be really difficult to stop and particularly hits smaller businesses.

"These organisations have to cope with delays in payments by looking for new funding from their banks – or delaying payments to their suppliers.

"And this could, in turn push them closer to the brink of failure.

"We think a better approach is for companies of all sizes to collaborate in a responsible manner.

"In order to achieve this, gaining knowledge about the financial standing of both customers and suppliers is key."



Show puts fruit back on the menu

In the latest of her regular looks at rural business matters, PAT CRAWFORD of Hadlow College takes a look at the challenges faced by our fruit growers



CORNUCOPIA: A magnificent display of apples at last year's National Fruit Show

THE National Fruit Show is being held at the county showground at Detling next month.

It was launched in 1933 and known as the Marden and District Commercial Fruit Show.

The 1938 event was cancelled due to frost damage and the 1939 show didn't take place because of the outbreak of World War Two.

Over the years the show enjoyed visits by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother (1953), and the Queen herself in 1984. It moved to its present location in 1992 and in 1999 was renamed the National Fruit Show.

Last year marked the show's 75th anniversary, at which time its president, the late Lord Sandy Bruce-Lockhart, wrote of the need to continue to promote the show's original aims of better growing, grading, storage and marketing "in order to stay the best in the world".

Few would argue. By the same token, the 'national' show it may be, but it is Kent's growers who take home the majority of the prizes.

This is surely as it should be. After all, the Garden of England continues to be the UK's biggest producer of top fruit and Kent has some fantastic growers.

Over the years the region's growers have witnessed very tough times and huge changes.

Imported apples, often deficient in flavour, dominated retailers' shelves and continue to pose huge threats. But now things are changing for the better. For a start, consumers have woken up to some essential facts.

Firstly, the range of apples grown in this country is enormous and arguably includes the best-flavoured fruit in the world.

Secondly, problems associated with food security are looming on the horizon. This is focusing greater attention on the importance of encouraging our own food producers to double their efforts, and encouragement has to be in the form of buying British.

Thirdly, in order to reduce carbon emissions associated with food miles, we have to return to buying seasonally available British food.

Nobody can say exactly how climate change will affect farmers and growers. It's possible they will gain from a warmer climate but suffer from increasingly unstable weather.

Scientists predict a decrease in spring and summer rainfall, and this could pose problems for growers. But nothing stands still.

Research is under way that will alleviate many of the potential problems and solve others. Hadlow College was once so big in the sector that it was known as "the fruit college".

When times were bad in the industry the college, rightly, changed tack and developed new courses to fill emerging needs.

Today, with fruit once again on the menu – pun intended – the college is, for the third year running, a leading sponsor.

Potential

As one of the UK's most successful land-based colleges, Hadlow can play a crucial part in developing potential opportunities.

Mark Lumsdon-Taylor, the college's director of finance and resources, believes education, training, marketing and the creation of greater public awareness and loyalty are fundamental to success.

"Hadlow College is introducing a new programme in 2010-11 based entirely on the needs of the fruit sector," he said.

"In addition, we are always willing to discuss the provision of tailor-made courses to suit individual requirements.

"Our sponsorship of the fruit show demonstrates our support and we are delighted to be at the show and able to play a major role in celebrating and strengthening this very important industry."

• ***The National Fruit Show takes place on October 21-22. For full details, see www.nationalfruitshow.org.uk.***

Don't fall foul of changed rules in Companies Act

ONE of the most significant changes to company administration in years swings into force on Thursday.

And big or small, company bosses are being urged to be aware of the changes the Companies Act 2006 will bring.

While a number of changes have already been felt – such as an increase in the level of fines for the filing of late accounts – business owners should be aware they now meet the new rules and regulations to avoid falling foul of the regulations. According to Companies House, some of the key changes are:

• Incorporation: To make it easier to set up and run a company there are a number of changes to the company incorporation process.

The new system of incorporation will be preceded by a clearing period to process any application made under the Companies Act 1985 that is received before October 1 2009.

The new incorporation process will require an application to register a company accompanied by a memorandum of association, the articles of association and the correct fee.

• Company names. The rules on 'same as' will be stricter. For example, Companies House will disregard a number of matters if they appear at the end of the name and they are preceded by a full stop including 'GB', 'services', and 'com'.

• Directors' service addresses: From October 1, 2009, every director must provide Companies House with both their usual residential address, and for each directorship they hold, a service address.

The service address will be on the public record and public information, but the residential address will be protected.

A director can choose any address as the service address, including the registered office address of the company.

The address must be where documents can be delivered and an acknowledgement or receipt can be provided if required.

The address cannot be a PO Box or a DX number. If the director chooses to use his residential address as the service address the fact that the two addresses are the same would not be apparent from the public record.

Tax returns

Perhaps crucial for most, was the increase in fines imposed for late tax returns, introduced in February.

Previously, where limited companies had to file their accounts with Companies House within 10 months of their year end, this will now change to nine months.

Failure will see the fine rise from £100 to £150. Also, more than one month late will incur an additional £375 fee, more than three months £750 and more than six months £1,500.

Companies Acts are designed to set the framework in which companies with limited liability must work. The Companies Act 2006 received Royal Assent on November 8, 2006 and effectively replaced company legislation by rewriting, updating and modernising company law.



‘Get the basics right now to prepare for the next big boom’



TALL ORDER: Australian business coach Brad Sugars has tips for owners of SMEs

Self-made millionaire BRAD SUGARS is one of the world's leading business coaches and next month hosts a seminar for businesspeople from Kent and the south east. Business is Booming, at Gatwick on October 13, will reveal more than 20 strategies to help small and medium-sized businesses thrive in the recession. Here Sugars, head of ActionCoach, which has a network in Kent, reveals his tips on how to ride out the downturn

ONCE upon a time, to succeed in business all you had to do was work really hard, put in long hours and be as tenacious as a foxy dog.

Since then, the business world has changed beyond all recognition and small-business owners now face a mortality rate high enough to scare them into the thought of going back and getting a job.

They have to survive in a world where dropping the ball for a second could mean bankruptcy or even worse.

And yet small businesses survive, despite the fact the world is in an economic downturn.

Many people say it’s a severe recession. Others use the word depression. But regardless of the label, as business owners we’re only concerned with our own numbers.

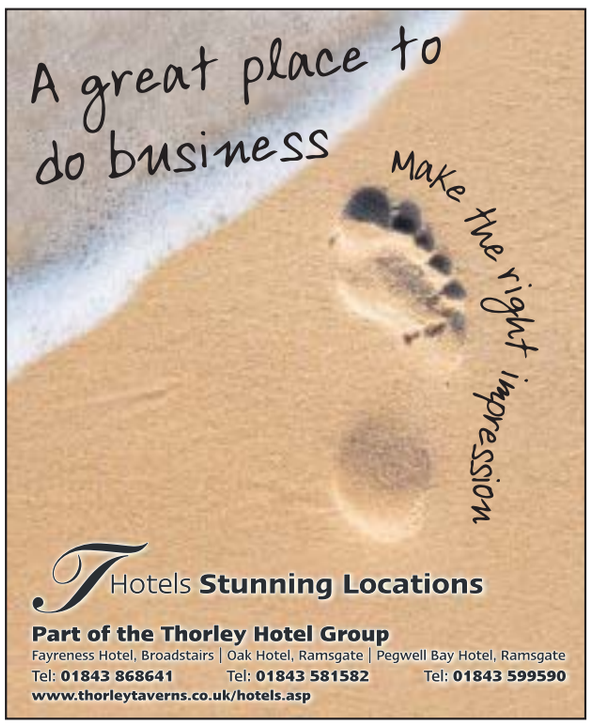
We all know that eventually customers will purchase and profits will return, but what can we do right now to preserve our customer base and our profits?

Business owners need to understand the greatest asset of their business is their customer base.

There’s no denying that when the economic climate is challenging, streamlining operations is pivotal to the bottom line.

But remember that those customers who have believed in your business in the past are the best assets you have.

It costs upwards of six to eight times more to acquire a new customer than to sell an existing





Face-to-face is key to success

AS NATIONAL Meetings Week draws to a close, business people are once again be urged to push the keyboard to one side and remember the benefits of face-to-face communication.

Research in two of the world’s biggest economies show the vast majority of business leaders (89 per cent) believe face-to-face meetings are essential for concluding a deal, and are far more effective than video-conferencing or ‘webinars’.

According to VisitBritain – the organisation behind the week of events promoting the meetings and events industry – a resounding 95 per cent of businessmen they questioned say meeting in person is the key to the success of long-term business relationships.

'Business owners need to understand their greatest asset is their customer base'

product to an existing customer, so in our current economic winter, it is vital to treat customers well and find ways to add value to your product and/or service line.

Don't offer bigger discounts. Optimise the value of your offerings. Product bundling and customer appreciation days may increase the perceived value while preserving a high profit margin.

When the phones are ringing wildly with sales, customers are crowding our showrooms and battling over the last item on the shelf, we forget that their money was earned by hours of hard work and because of that they are going to maximise the value they receive for the money they spend.

However, businesses rarely survive over the long term by focusing on low prices.

While it seems logical to think that having a larger range of products which appeal to the widest of range of people would be the best way to increase sales, I would encourage some business owners to think differently.

Diversity doesn't mean you have a great business. It may be more profitable to sell lower volume items at higher price points and higher profit margins.

Do you know how many customers you need (or how many sales you need to make) today to make a profit? How about to break even?

Do you know how long you'll have to work this year just to pay your taxes?

What about how many prospects you need in your sales pipeline to generate enough customers to make your profit margin? What is your profit margin?

If you're struggling to answer these basic questions, you're not alone.

Most business owners I've coached over the years have no clue what their real numbers are. They have a vague guess or a gut feel – but they don't really know – mainly because I think they don't want to be faced with the reality the numbers will ultimately show them.

What can numbers tell you?

First, numbers will tell you where you are right now. Beyond revenues and expenses, your numbers will show your profit margins, as well as vital figures relating to sales.

If you know how many people come through your doors a day and how many actually buy something, you suddenly have a handle on the number known as your sales conversion rate.

By that measure, if you know you always convert 15 per cent of your prospects into a sale, and you know you need 12 sales to profit, you can easily determine you'll need 80 people through your doors on average to be profitable (12/15 per cent = 80).

Now the question becomes, "How can I get 80 people through my doors?".

That's another column, but at least you know what you have to do in volume to make your profit.

Second, numbers will guide you where you want to go. Are you looking for an extra £10,000 in gross profit on a 25 per cent profit margin? You'll need to generate a turnover of at least £40,000.

Finally, numbers will help you form a plan to get there. Sometimes, the numbers will reveal your current skills and market conditions – or your current mix of products and services – just won't support your revenue and profit targets.

So what do the numbers look like in your company? If you are in sales, how many calls will you need to make next week to get the number of appointments you'll need to make a sale?

If you are in retail, how many customers will you need in your shop to break even and make a profit? And how big will that profit need to be? Take some time – right now – and introduce yourself to the past, present and future numbers of your business.

The upside of all of this is that right now, the world's economic stage is being set for the next big boom. When will it happen? Who knows?

The point is that now is the time to get your own basics right so when the economic recovery hits full swing, you'll be ready to capture even greater profits and success.

Win 10 free tickets to guru's seminar

KOS Media has teamed up with Brad Sugars to give away 10 tickets to his seminar in Gatwick.

The Australian business guru's talk is expected to be a sell-out but we are giving away 10 tickets – worth nearly £500 – to KoS readers.

At his talk at the Gatwick Hilton Hotel, on Tuesday, October 13, Sugars will reveal more than 20 tried-and-tested strategies to help businesses thrive and even grow during the downturn.

Plus, our 10 winners will also receive a free business health check with Kent ActionCoach, Nick Dougan, who is profiled below.

To be one of our 10 winners, just email your name, address and telephone number to nickdougan@actioncoach.com or call 01732 668984 by Thursday, October 1.

Our 10 winners will be drawn at random.

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/01/2012 **OD:** £1,329

MORTGAGE BOX ITL
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.89% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/03/2011 **OD:** £1,184

RBS FIRST ACTIVE
RT: FIXED **R%:** 5.69% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/10/2012 **OD:** £829

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.18% **L:** 70% **U:** 02/12/2011 **OD:** £1,030

OTHER

ABBEY
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 3 YEARS **OD:** £1,030

DARLINGTON
RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE **R%:** 3.15% **L:** 70% **U:** 30/11/2011 **OD:** £1,320

MARSDEN
RT: DISCOUNTED VARIABLE **R%:** 3.09% **L:** 75% **U:** 30/11/2011 **OD:** £1,123

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.09% **L:** 70% **U:** 2 YEARS **OD:** £1,305

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LEGAL & GENERAL	£554	CANADA LIFE	£544
AEGON SE	£548	AEGON SE	£532
STANDARD LIFE	£531	STANDARD LIFE	£522
MALE AGED 65		**FEMALE AGED 65**	
AVIVA	£6250	AVIVA	£609
CANADA LIFE	£614	CANADA LIFE	£596
LEGAL & GENERAL	£607	LEGAL & GENERAL	£593
AEGON SE	£604	AEGON SE	£583
STANDARD LIFE	£590	STANDARD LIFE	£577

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Time for action

BUSINESSMAN Nick Dougan, pictured left, runs an ActionCoach business based in north Kent and is helping local companies to thrive in the recession.

Covering an area that includes Dartford, Maidstone and the Medway towns, Mr Dougan coaches the owners of SMEs in all aspects of their business.

He said: "Too many people go into business to give themselves more freedom and end up working longer hours, often for less money, than when they were in employment.

"In sport it is accepted that all top-flight performers have a coach, so businessmen and women can also benefit from coaching to help them perform at their best and stay focused.

"ActionCoach has developed a vast number of techniques and strategies to help small and medium-sized businesses to grow and thrive, often while helping owner-managers to use their time more effectively and actually work fewer hours in their businesses – or even fewer hours in total."

Log on to www.actioncoach.com/nickdougan to find out more.

THE Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce holds its AGM next month and is hoping for a good turn out from members keen to discover how it has fared during 12 turbulent months for the business sector.

The meeting takes place on October 16 at the chamber's headquarters at Ashford Business Point in Sevington. It is free for members to attend and includes lunch.

Normally more than 100 members attend, boosting its value as a networking event too.

For more details, see www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk.

A HOME search agency which specialises in finding properties for health professionals moving to the area has been shortlisted for a national award.

Canterbury-based Medics on the Move is in the running for a prize at the Negotiator Awards in London on Wednesday, November 11.

Clare Bettelley, editor of The Negotiator magazine, said: "We've had a terrific response and Medics on the Move has done brilliantly to get shortlisted from such a huge field."

FIRMS of all sizes from across the south east are being urged to apply for the 2010 Queen's Awards for Enterprise, following the region's record-breaking success in the 2009 awards.

A total of 32 Queen's Awards were won by firms from the region in April 2009 – more than any other area in the UK. Entry is free and open to any firm with two or more employees. Applications forms can be completed online at www.queensawards.org.uk.

The deadline for entries is 2pm on October 30.



Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear

1909

100 YEARS AGO: Billed as one of the most alluring contests possible in local football, Dartford played host to neighbours Northfleet in an FA Cup tie that lived up to expectations.

The Fleet were two up after 25 minutes, but Dartford pulled one back before the break and equalised when Hawkins scored after 65 minutes, with the Darts having an earlier effort ruled out for off-side.

That forced a replay at Stonebridge Road the following Wednesday and Dartford took the lead after just eight minutes, only for Kennedy and Myers to ensure Northfleet "came up smiling in characteristic fashion" according to the reporter.

Sittingbourne made short work of Folkestone, thrashing them 6-1 away, while New Brompton Reserves were again toying with Maidstone United, beating them 6-0 at Priestfield, a week after winning the reverse fixture 4-0.

1959

50 YEARS AGO: Godfrey Evans was awarded a testimonial by Kent after announcing his retirement from the game.

The former England wicketkeeper, who had already been given a benefit season in 1953, served Kent for 20 years, prompting county chairman Stuart Chiesman to say: "I now appeal to every cricket lover and cricket body not only in this county but wherever the game is played.

"Please salute this great wicketkeeper by sending a gift, large or small, to our headquarters at the St Lawrence Ground, Canterbury… I received news of his resignation with deep regret.

"That he was perfectly able to continue for some years was obvious, but he chose to forefeit a Test place and to close a long career in the interests of a younger player."



ON TARGET: Gills striker Tony Cascarino

1984

25 YEARS AGO: Gillingham gambled against Leeds United in the first leg of their League Cup second round tie at Priestfield and ended up suffering a 2-1 defeat.

Tommy Wright gave the visitors a 20th minute lead, but Tony Cascarino levelled within two minutes.

The Gills went for broke in an attempt to get a lead ahead of the second leg at Elland Road, but the crowd of 9,000 were silenced when former Manchester United striker Andy Ritchie scored an 85th-minute winner.

Norwich City, then in Division One, brought a full strength side to Maidstone Road, Chatham, for a game organised by the TVS programme 'Easy-Peasy'.

In Rugby, New Ash Green beat Cranbrook 29-3, Vigo won 26-11 at Old Wills and Maidstone survived a late fright to beat Old Alleynians 22-21.

Benn raises the bar

Golfer setting his sights higher after Spaniard's stunning round ruins hopes of first tour victory

By **TOM HOWARD**

HEADING into the final round of the Austrian Golf Open, Benn Barham thought he had done enough to secure a breakthrough European Tour win.

Even going into the back nine the Kent golfer was on course to complete his first win after a dominant performance which saw him leading for the first three days of the tournament.

What happened after then proves why golf is such a frustrating sport as he was left to watch Spaniard Rafael Cabrera-Bello shoot a stunning 11-under-par final round to snatch victory from underneath his nose.

So close

"I thought I had done enough and was checking the leaderboards throughout the final few holes," he told Kent on Sunday.

"I knew I needed to make a birdie and I came so close which was hard to take, but if someone goes and shoots a 60 there is not a lot you can do about it."

The Ashford golfer finished runner-up by a single shot and despite the heartache of missing out on a maiden tour win, second place represents his best finish since he joined the competition six years ago.

After a poor season which has seen him drop down the Order of Merit rankings, the 33-year-old attributes his sudden change of form to the input of a new coach.



Picture: ADY KERRY

POSITIVE: Benn Barham says the input of a new coach and his second place in last week's Austrian Open have given him confidence in his ability to win on the European Tour

"I played well under pressure and after a poor year I have made changes with a new coach," he said. "Now I am delivering results.

"It has given me added belief I can win an event before the season ends. I always knew I had the game, but now I have shown I can compete at the sharp end of tournaments."

After shooting up 51 positions to 124th in the Order of Merit rankings, Barham needs another strong finish to secure his place on the European Tour by finishing the year in the top 115.

He heads to Scotland next week to take part in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and has no intention of scraping his way to a spot on the 2010 tour.

He said: "Securing my spot on the tour is an objective but I think I can win an event this year.

"I don't want to just limp into the top 115, I want to smash through and finish as high as possible in the rankings."

Young Harriers secure European place

A STUNNING performance from Blackheath & Bromley Harriers' girls last weekend confirmed their place as one of the best teams in European junior athletics.

Strong displays throughout saw 14 of the 16-strong team return from the European Champions Club Cup meeting in Tuzla, Bosnia as Group B champions.

It means Blackheath will return to the prestigious top flight for next year's competition alongside continental giants ASK Moscow.

Team manager Mike Sheppard was delighted with the achievement, which saw his team finish two points ahead of Polish team Podlasie Bialystok.

He said: "The whole weekend was amazing and it was a real team effort. All the girls concentrated on was what they had to do and listened to their coaches, who also put in a lot of hard work.

"We have some talented athletes who will no doubt go on to better things so for them to succeed and win the title was terrific."

Blackheath were representing Great Britain in the competition for the fourth successive year after finishing ranked number one in the country. They were only able to compete after extensive fundraising by the club which covered the expensive trip.

After suffering the disappointment of relegation from Group A last year, the aim was to finish in the top two and bounce straight back.



Picture: MIKE SHEPPARD

TEAM EFFORT: Blackheath & Bromley Harriers' girls came top of their group in Bosnia

Christina Moore (pole vault), Lorraine Ugen (long jump), Shaunagh Brown (shot put) and Serita Solomon (100 metre hurdles), all won gold to put Blackheath level on points with the Polish team going into the relays.

The sprint relay team showed why they were the class act in the field, with Megan Southwart, Kirstie Robinson, Solomon and Grace Sheppard combining to finish first.

A silver medal in the 4x400m relay rubberstamped their title and promotion back into the top eight teams next year.

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Injured Oli hoping gym'll fix it

DENNIS Oli is hoping extra work in the gym will stop him being a regular in the Gillingham treatment room.

The 25-year-old forward has been a regular in the Priestfield physio room since joining the club two years ago.

A broken bone in his foot kept him out for three months last season and the forward missed the start of this campaign with a knee problem picked up in a pre-season friendly.

In an effort to stay fit, Oli has begun doing extra sessions before training to strengthen the muscles around his knee and also work on his hamstrings, which can be a problem for players with pace.

"I think that's helped me out a lot," he admitted. "I always seem to get a long injury in the season but hopefully I've got it out the way and I can continue the season injury-free.

"The work adds up and I can really feel the difference out on the pitch, so it's vital to me. Hopefully it will keep me out on the pitch and out of the treatment room."

Oli is relishing Gillingham's return to League One, the latest change in fortune in a rollercoaster career.

After beginning at Queens Park Rangers he then spent several years in non-league before signing for the Gills in 2007, reuniting with Mark Stimson, his manager at Grays Athletic.

After an extended period out of the Football League, Oli is determined to make the most of his second chance.

He said: "I've had a bit of a yo-yo career, I started at QPR and then dropped out of the league for a few years, so when you do come back I think you do value it a bit more.

"But then you don't want to stay at this level, although it's a decent standard, you want to play as high as you can.

"Being back in League One is a privilege and I want to stay here and try to go even higher."

Picture: ADY KERRY



CROCKED: Dennis Oli hopes gym work will help him avoid injuries

The road to success

House predicts boom in cycling's popularity as frenzied crowds cheer on racers in final stages of Tour of Britain

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

KRISTIAN House believes interest in road cycling is rocketing after huge crowds turned out to watch the Tour of Britain.

The race came to an end last weekend in front of thousands in central London, following on from large galleries throughout the previous seven stages across the country.

It was the latest evidence the profile of the sport is increasing after a successful period, helped by the Tour de France's visit to Kent in 2007.

Olympic success both on the track and road, plus the exploits of Mark Cavendish and Bradley Wiggins in this year's Tour, have helped stimulate the attention.

House, who grew up in Canterbury and is the reigning National Road Racing champion, was staggered by the turnout for this year's race, which was won by emerging Norwegian star Edvald Boasson Hagen.

"The crowds on the last three stages, in the south especially, were unbelievable – I haven't seen crowds like that in the UK," he told Kent on Sunday.

"Hopefully that's the sign of things to come and the sport continues to evolve in this country.

"London was unbelievable, the reception I had personally was phenomenal. Being national champion, everyone wanted to see me, I was completely taken aback by it.

"I've never been in a situation where people are screaming my name for autographs. That sort of thing just doesn't happen to me or many cyclists, full stop. It was something special and I really enjoyed it."



SPRINT FINISH: Kristian House (right) was overwhelmed by the crowds in the Tour of Britain

The 29-year-old went into the race hoping to finish in the top-10 and rolled in as the third highest British rider in a career-best 10th place. It was a notable achievement considering every stage was contested by a bunch sprint, which did not favour House's style.

The Rapha Condor rider made his bid for glory in the penultimate stage from Hatherleigh to Yeovil. At one point the breakaway held a six-minute lead on the main field before being chased down in the closing stages.

"I desperately needed the racing; I was getting bored in the bunch," he said. "The only way I could finish in the top-10 was to get out and pick up the time bonuses.

"You have to think you're going to stay away but in the back of your mind you know you're going to get caught."

House completes his season with several races in Australia, beginning with the Tour of Tasmania, which starts on Tuesday.

Jones denies rift forced Gills exit

MARK Jones insists he parted with Gillingham on good terms after his sudden resignation as the club's chief executive earlier this week.

The decision caught many by surprise, ending an 18-month stint at Priestfield. The club declined to make an official statement about why Jones chose to leave, but he told Kent on Sunday his decision was for personal reasons.

He said: "I wish the club all the best for the future, I liked everyone I worked with there.

"It was a fantastic period for the club and a memorable season last year with the cup tie against Aston Villa and the play-off final at Wembley.

"I felt my time was at an end with what I could achieve there and I want to do other things."



SHOCK MOVE: Mark Jones

Jones, who lives in Eastbourne, has a long background in sport including spells at Watford and Lingfield racecourse. He came in to help relieve some of the workload on chairman Paul Scally, who he has known for more than 25 years.

As chief executive, Jones was in charge of the club's non-playing operations, which he thinks has been a success.

He said: "I think the club's in a stronger position financially than it was. I've helped to restructure a number of things and tried to bring the club closer to the supporters and make it more open.

"It's a great club, one of the best in terms of potential to grow. It's already fairly sizeable, but if they can get a new stadium I don't doubt crowds of 18-20,000 would be impossible, they just need the facilities."

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WORLD-CLASS: The Dartford Dojo

County leading the race to host Games athletes

OLYMPIC organisers in the county are optimistic this week's agreement with Ukraine and Belarus will only be the start of a host of other deals in the run-up to London 2012.

All Olympic associations received a list of official training camp venues during the Beijing Olympics, but formal agreements have been difficult to come by so far.

This week's announcement was only the second in the county, following the deal between Medway Park and the Barbados Paralympic team in April.

There have been other visits, such as a team of gymnasts from Ukraine training in Gravesend last November, but no official agreements.

Despite the relatively slow progress, Mike Hill, cabinet member for communities at Kent County Council, believes the county is in good shape.

Deals

He said: "It's hard to know for sure but going by the deals struck elsewhere in the region this is the first significant one in the south east. I think we're leading the field to that extent.

"We have had – and are having – discussions with other countries. It's hard to tell if they will come to anything because a lot can go wrong between starting talks and signing."

Helped by its proximity to the Olympic Park in east London, the county has more training venues in the official brochure than any other county.

A total of 36 sites made it on to the original list when it was announced last year, more than Scotland (28) and Wales (31). A further eight were approved for Paralympic teams.

There are a huge range of venues bidding for Olympic teams in Kent capable of hosting sports teams as diverse as beach volleyball and wheelchair tennis.

Several are genuine world-class facilities, such as the Dartford Judo Centre – home of Britain's judo team – and the Jumpers Rebound Centre for trampolining in the revamped Medway Park.

Judo club in grip of Olympic fever

The prospect of top-class international athletes coming to the county ahead of the 2012 Olympic Games moved a step closer this week. DAVID PRITCHARD and TOM HOWARD report

KENT received the biggest boost to their hopes of hosting world-class athletes in the run up to the London Olympics after two countries agreed a deal this week.

Delegates from Belarus and Ukraine signed an agreement for their judo teams to train in the county before and during the Games in 2012.

Tonbridge School and Tonbridge Judo Club will host the teams, who are expected to visit several times before the Olympics as part of meticulous preparations.

Mike Hill, cabinet member for communities at Kent County Council, was delighted with the decision

He said: "It's exciting to get two teams who have genuine chances of medals coming to Kent. A lot of work goes into trying to attract nations to come here and now it's starting to bear fruit."

Ecstatic

Both countries have won multiple Olympic medals in judo since 2000 and are expected to challenge again in 2012. Part of the dividend of hosting teams in the run-up to the Olympics will be the chance for budding athletes to watch the training sessions and even train alongside the world's best athletes.

Mike Bowles, chief coach at Tonbridge Judo Club, is ecstatic with the decision and cannot wait for his members to see an Olympic team up close.

He said: "For me that's one of the highlights. We have a wealth of young kids in the club and for them to sit and watch a team like Ukraine, who have a world champion and three European champions, is fantastic. They will train but in between they always find time to come on the mat with the children and let them practice with them. The kids will always remember that and maybe there's one who is inspired to become a future Olympic champion."

It is hoped the countries will build lasting links with the area as a result of the agreement. The judo club is already reaping the rewards after receiving an invite to go and train in Kiev before the end of the year. They will return in January to take part in one of the toughest tournaments in judo, dramatically increasing the club's profile.

Bowles said: "It's putting us on the world map. We're looking forward to building a relationship, we want the legacy to really grow."

Picture: TONBRIDGE JUDO CLUB



MEDAL HOPES: Judo teams from Belarus and Ukraine will train at Tonbridge Judo club

ASHFORD: Chilham Park, Great Chart Golf Course, Julie Rose Stadium, Stour Centre

CANTERBURY: Christchurch University, Canterbury Rhythmic Gymnastics Club, Polo Farm Hockey Club, St Lawrence Cricket Club, Canterbury High School, University of Kent

DARTFORD: Arrow Riding Centre, Dartford Judo Centre, Princes Park Stadium

DOVER: Deal Gymnastics Centre, Fowlemead Country Park

FOLKESTONE: Valley Leisure Centre (Can only host Paralympic athletes)

GRAVESHAM: Meapa Gymnastics Club, Mursted Court Equestrian Centre

MAIDSTONE: Maidstone Leisure Centre, Pegasus Gymnastics Centre, Sutton Valence School

MEDWAY: Gillingham FC, Howard Table Tennis Centre, Jumpers Rebound Centre, Castlemaine Badminton Centre, Medway Park

SEVENOAKS: Brands Hatch, Penshurst Off Road Circuit, Sevenoaks School

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Legend Bannister opens track

LONDON 2012 training camp, Sutton Valence School, is hoping to attract attention from Olympic nations following the opening of a brand new athletics track this week.

The school, near Maidstone, welcomed former Great Britain athlete Sir Roger Bannister to open the new floodlit eight-lane athletics track on Tuesday.

The state-of-the-art facility has been partly funded by Sutton Valence School, Maidstone Borough Council and Medway & Maidstone Athletic Club at a cost of £800,000.

The track, named after Bannister, the first man to run a sub four-minute mile, will be the first to serve Maidstone for 25 years. It will add to the school's hopes of attracting a nation to base themselves there ahead of the London Games. The school already boasts facilities for hockey, fencing, basketball and archery and is also equipped with a 25-metre swimming pool.

Medway & Maidstone Athletic Club chairman, Paul Alcock, said: "The school have got this as a recommended training venue for the 2012 Olympics and it's now down to another country to get in contact with us and negotiate the use of the facilities."

After three years of hard work, Alcock is delighted with the track, which he hopes will bring more people from the county into the sport.

He said: "We've lost athletes to other clubs because they don't know how good they are.

"Now we have a a track on their doorstop we will be able to tell them how good they are and hopefully they can progress to better things."



Picture: MICK GELL

STARTING LINE: Sir Roger Bannister opened new athletics venue

Picture: ADY KERRY



Baptism of fire for young Coles

Kent Academy teenager endures thrills and spills in First-Class cricket debut

By **GLENN PEARSON**

MATT Coles admits going for a century on his championship debut was not the ideal start to his First-Class bowling career.

The Kent youngster was thrown in for his first County Championship game against Gloucestershire at Bristol, where he came up against New Zealand internationals Hamish Marshall and James Franklin in good form.

The 18-year-old was expensive when asked to bowl by skipper Rob Key, going for 130 runs from his 17 overs, but he did claim his first two wickets, when Chris Taylor and Anthony Ireland were sent back to the pavilion.

The former Maplesden Noakes schoolboy, who is in his last year on the Kent Academy, said it was a special moment making his championship debut and one that will help further his career development.

"It was a pretty tough start, but I thought I bowled reasonably well considering the pitch was so flat," he told Kent on Sunday. "It has been a learning curve being whacked around and hopefully one that I will come back from a better bowler.

"I was just trying to think about it as being just another game of cricket but with a name on your back if I'm honest. I know I am good enough to play at this level, I just need to back myself."

The young all-rounder was harshly dealt with in the game that finished yesterday, conceding that he had bowled either two short or too full at times, but feels the experience of playing First-Class cricket has been of benefit.

"On the pitch is the best way to learn how to do things and what you need to spend time working on," he said. "I suppose it gives you the bigger picture, in terms of your game, rather than watching on the sidelines.

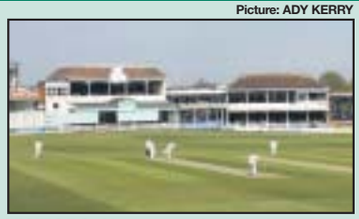
"Going into next year, I can spend the winter working on hitting the right length consistently, that's something I worked out when facing Jon Lewis. He gave me nothing to hit."

Coles has already gained experience of playing in the first-team having featured in the Kent Spitfires' Pro40 campaign this season and is one of several young players hoping to break into the side next season.

"That, combined with making his debut in competitive four-day cricket is likely to stand him in good stead, although being hit around the Bristol ground might make it one he forgets in a rush.

"Amjad Khan and Simon Cook said to me afterwards that you are not a true championship bowler until you have gone for a hundred runs," he said. "I just didn't expect that to come in my first game."

Picture: ADY KERRY



VISITORS: Kent are scheduled to play Pakistan in a three-day match in June

County to take on Pakistan at St Lawrence

REIGNING world Twenty20 champions Pakistan are scheduled to play a three-day game against Kent at St Lawrence next season.

Rob Key's side take on Pakistan at Canterbury ahead of the tourist's four match Test series against England later in the summer.

Pakistan, led by Younis Khan, are scheduled to play the three-day game from June 28.

Kent chief executive, Paul Millman, said: "This is great news for Kent. Pakistan supporters are passionate about cricket and I'm sure that the match will generate a bumper crowd.

"We successfully staged the Australia v England Lions game earlier this year, and are delighted to bring further international cricket to the county. I'm sure the people of Kent will back us and come out in force to watch some of the finest international cricketers on show at the St Lawrence Ground."



WINNERS: (l-r) Darren Stevens and James Tredwell with the County Championship Division Two trophy which is on display at St Lawrence today Picture: JAMES BOARDMAN

Supporters to get glimpse of championship trophy

THE County Championship Division Two title will be on display for members and supporters to see as the curtain comes down on the cricket season today.

Kent won the title and with it promotion back to the championship's top tier with a game to spare, and will have the trophy on display at today's Pro40 clash with Northamptonshire at St Lawrence.

It's the last chance to see cricket as the season draws to a close. Play at Canterbury starts at 12.45pm.

The victorious Kent women and under-17 sides will also be parading the trophies they won after similarly successful campaigns.

DON'T MISS NEXT WEEK:

In next week's Kent on Sunday, read new Kent head coach Paul Farbrace's plans for the 2010 season, including:

- How new coaching regime with Graham Ford will work
- Ideas on where the club need to strengthen
- What type of overseas player will be targeted
- Skipper Rob Key's future at the club



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Ggolf
Benn Barham vows to win first tour title despite tough defeat in Austria **84**



CRICKET
Matt Coles on his First-Class debut for Kent **87**



OUT ON LOAN: Andy Pugh

Gills signings unlikely, says Stimson

GILLINGHAM may not be able to add to their squad before the transfer window re-opens in January due to a lack of money available for the playing squad.

Football League clubs are able to make loan signings outside of the transfer windows, with Gills boss Mark Stimson still ideally looking for a striker and centre-back to strengthen his squad.

But a lack of funds have forced the club to end their interest in West Ham defender Matt Fry, despite reducing their wage budget by sending strikers Luis Cumbers and Andy Pugh out on loan.

Stimson admitted there was little he could do: "[No signings] before January at the moment. In the immediate future, unless I can generate some money, then we're not going to be able to bring anyone else in.

"There aren't many players who can go out on loan to generate the type of money I need to bring someone in who is actually going to get on that pitch and perform better than the players we've got. We just have to get on with it and see how we go."

Last week chairman Paul Scally told Kent on Sunday money was always available for the right players, explaining why the club could attempt to bring in Charlton striker Chris Dickson.

Stimson will continue to search and hope his squad can cope in the interim.

He said: "It's if someone gets injured now then it does become a problem. Hopefully in two or three weeks' time finances might be made available and if they are we can use that money to go and improve the team."

Pictures: ADY KERRY



OUT ON LOAN: Luis Cumbers

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Picture: A1GP



BRANDS DITCHES A1 GRAND PRIX

Track chiefs pass up return of troubled series

By **TOM HOWARD**

BRANDS Hatch will not host the British round of the A1GP series next year following doubts surrounding the championship's long-term future.

The Kent circuit hosted the inaugural meeting of the series in 2005 and has been the home of the British round for the past four seasons.

However, a drop in crowds, and rumours suggesting the series is struggling financially, have prompted Brands Hatch to opt out of the championship for the 2009-10 season.

The A1GP series, which pitches nation against nation in identical cars, released its calendar for next season this week, which excluded the Kent circuit.

The series has suffered a turbulent off-season since Ireland's Adam Carroll lifted the title at Brands in May.

As well as financial concerns, this week Ferrari has been rumoured to be pulling the plug on its supply of engines, barely a month before the opening round in Australia.

Track owner, Jonathan Palmer, confirmed that the circuit will not be host A1GP races next year, but stopped short of ruling out a return after next season.

He told Kent on Sunday: "At the moment it appears the championship does not have a safe financial footing and until it does, we will not be involved.

"Obviously we would love to hold the race, but only if we have some indication of the future of the series. It has been a great series and I hope it will come back to Brands Hatch in the future."

The news will come as a shock to motorsport fans across the county as the championship drew around 72,000 people for the inaugural meeting, which is one of the biggest crowds for a car meeting in the circuit's history.

Palmer admitted he is disappointed it will not be returning to its birth place, but believes after a drop in crowds for this year's race, other championships are becoming more popular.

He said: "We hosted the very first race of the series and it was a wonderful occasion for the sport and us.

"It is sad that it won't be back in 2010, but crowds have been falling and we saw a significant drop at this year's event. Series like the British Touring Car Championship are becoming just as popular, if not more so."

Brands Hatch will host another event in place of the A1GP, which is yet to be disclosed.